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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR (REPORT NUMBER 8).

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TEXT:

H.KRAMER; PASS TO GREG BOGDAN, PIO FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS AND; OMAR OJEDA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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E.O. 12356: SNAR, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR (REPORT NUMBER 8).

1. SECOND LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 140,000) OF JULY 7 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL PRAISING GENERAL MIGUEL MAZA, DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (DAS), AND MONSIGNOR PEDRO RUBIANO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLOMBIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FOR CRITICIZING THE SURRENDER OF DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. EL ESPECTADOR CONTINUES TO BE THE DISSIDENT MEDIA VOICE WITH ITS HARSH CRITICISM OF THE GOC'S ANTI-DRUG POLICY. BLOCK QUOTE FOLLOWS:

2. "THE MEDIA HAVE BEEN AIRING OPINIONS ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED SERIOUS CRIMES AND TERRORIZED THE COUNTRY, ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE CONTAMINATED THE HUMAN RACE WITH A DIABOLICAL ADDICTION. PARADOXICALLY, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BECOME THE NEWS, THEY ARE BEING EXALTED, EVEN PRAISED, IN CLEAR CONTRAST TO THEIR VICTIMS....MONSIGNOR RUBIANO SAID: 'SO LONG AS SOMEONE IS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, OUT OF MERCY OR PITY, TO CLEAN THEIR LIVES OR ACTIONS FROM CONTAMINATIONGENERAL MAZA EXPRESSES A SIMILAR POINT OF VIEW WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT 'THE DARK AND REPUGNANT CRIMINAL PERIOD' THAT COLOMBIA IS EXPERIENCING. HE SAYS IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH A SIMPLE ACCIDENT OF NATURE BECAUSE IT EMBRACES KNOWN AUTHORS WHOSE IDENTITIES HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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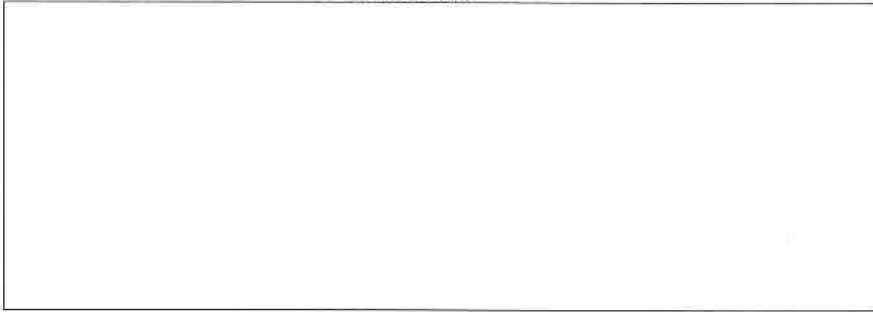
3. LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 235,000) OF JULY 8 CARRIES AN EDITORIAL PRAISING FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ENRIQUE PAREJO, FOR HIS CRITICISM OF GOC ANTI-DRUG POLICIES. IT REPRESENTS AN UNCOMMON STANCE IN THE EDITORIAL PAGES OF EL TIEMPO BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPER HAS FAVORED GOC POLICIES AS THEY RELATE TO THE SURRENDER OF ESCOBAR. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW:

4. "WE NO LONGER WILL EXTRADITE COLOMBIANS WHO COMMIT CRIMES ABROAD AND WHO LATER SEEK A SAFE HOUSE THAT CANNOT BE VIOLATED IN ORDER TO ESCAPE SEVERE PUNISHMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAT ARE BETTER ORGANIZED. ALSO, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TRY FOREIGNERS WHO CHOSE COLOMBIA AS THEIR SCENE OF THE CRIME AND THEN RETURN HOME AND IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THEIR ANONYMOUS STATUS AND ENJOY IMPUNITY. THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND IT WANTS TO SURRENDER. IT WANTS TO SURRENDER TO CRIME IN ORDER TO BUY PEACE. AND THE GOVERNMENT INTERPRETED THIS WELL. IT WAS NOT PRESIDENT GAVIRIA NOR THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE WHO SURRENDERED. IT WAS THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE RESULTS WILL BE POSITIVE OR NOT." (END).
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