

SECRET

135683219

TITLE: SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GAVIRIA THREATENED BY ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES.

ORIGDATE: 199312171937

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 19204

TEXT:

TAGS: PGOV, ASEC, SNAR, PTER, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GAVIRIA THREATENED BY ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES.

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. LATE ON DECEMBER 16, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG AGENCY, GABRIEL DE VEGA DELIVERED TO THE AMBASSADOR A LETTER WHICH PRESIDENT GAVIRIA HAD RECEIVED VIA FAX EARLIER IN THE DAY. THE LETTER, SIGNED BY THE EXTRADITABLES--A NOM DE GUERRE ASSUMED BY TRAFFICKERS OPPOSED TO EXTRADITION IN THE LATE 1980'S, AND FORMERLY LED BY PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA--DECLARES THAT A DEATH SENTENCE HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR GAVIRIA AND HIS FAMILY BY THE GROUP. DE VEGA EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE THREAT.
3. THE LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE, WAS FAXED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 16. DE VEGA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY CONCERNED BY THE THREAT AND WAS TAKING IT SERIOUSLY. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOC WHO READ THE LETTER ALSO FELT THAT THE THREAT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

5. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER:

"THE EXTRADITABLES MAKE KNOWN TO THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE:"

"THAT WE EXPRESS OUR GRIEF FOR THE ASSASINATION OF OUR CHIEF, PABLO EMILIO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, WHO, AT A CLEAR DISADVANTAGE, WAS KILLED BY 60 MEN OF A GOVERNMENTAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

SECRET

SECRET

SQUADRON OF "LOS PEPES" ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 2, OF THIS YEAR."

"THAT IN HIS NAME, WE ISSUE THIS VICTORIOUS COMMUNIQUE. HIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THE ELIMINATION OF THE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS A TRIUMPH THAT COST HIM HIS LIFE, AND FOR WHICH HE WAS AT WAR UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE OF HIS LIFE. NONETHELESS, WE HAVE NOT BEEN DEFEATED, AS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE. WE CONTINUE WITH THE FIGHT, SEEKING THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRYMEN AND OUR CHILDREN."

"THAT FOR THE MOMENT, THE ONLY MOTIVE THAT INSPIRES US IS THE IMPOSITION OF A DEATH SENTENCE DECREED AGAINST PRESIDENT GAVIRIA. WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL HIS HYPOCRITICAL SMILE, WHICH HE HAS BEEN WEARING SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ENRICHED ITSELF WITH IMPUNITY, HAS BEEN ERASED ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY. HE HAS CLAIMED "VICTORY" AND WE ARE GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR IT. WE HAVE ALWAYS CARRIED OUT OUR THREATS, AND THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE THE EXCEPTION. NOT EVEN A BULLET-PROOF VEST THAT WOULD COVER HIS HEAD WILL SAVE HIM. HE AND HIS FAMILY WILL SUFFER AN IMPLACABLE PERSECUTION, EQUAL TO THAT TO WHICH OUR INNOCENT FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED."

"TO THE REST OF THE COLOMBIAN CITIZENS, A MERRY CHRISTMAS IN PEACE."

"LONG LIVE PABLO E! LONG LIVE COLOMBIA!
LONG LIVE ANTIOQUIA !

"THE EXTRADITABLES"

6. COMMENT: THE THREAT FROM THE ESCOBAR ORGANIZATION IS BEING INTERPRETED AS A RETALIATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY FOR THE DEATH OF ESCOBAR, BUT ALSO FOR THE FAVORITISM THE GOC IS SHOWING TOWARDS THE CALI CARTEL. OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS (SINCE ESCOBAR'S DEATH) WE ESTIMATE, BASED ON A SERIES OF VISA REQUESTS RECEIVED

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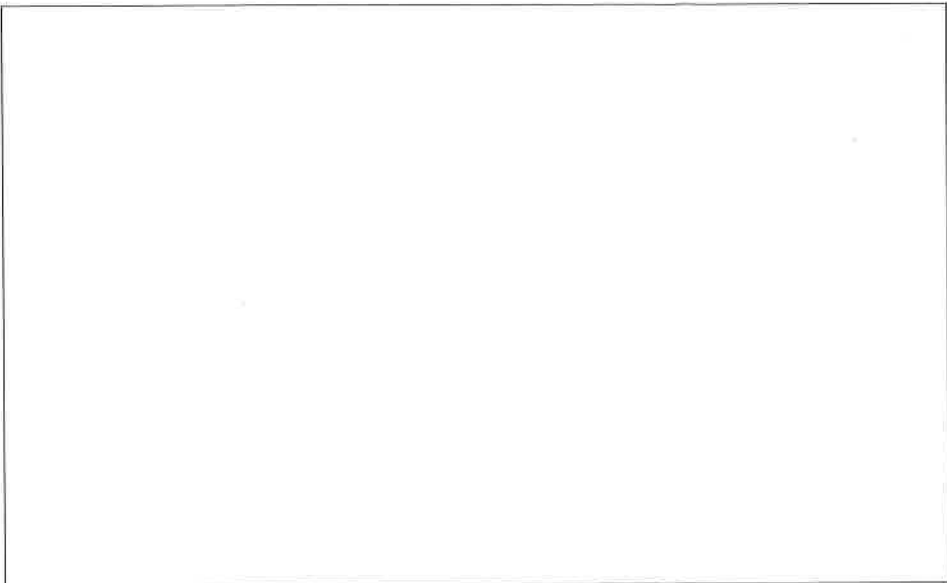
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SECRET

BY THE CONSULATE, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT NEARLY ALL THE MEMBERS OF HIS EXTENDED FAMILY TO THE U.S. AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME HAVE TRAVELLED TO PANAMA AS WELL. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR MID-LEVEL GAVIRIA ADVISORS, AS WELL AS MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. WE ESTIMATE THAT BY THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (JANUARY 15) ONLY THE PRESIDENT, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN MAY WELL REMAIN IN COLOMBIA. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE CASA NARINO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED. END COMMENT. BUSBY

END OF MESSAGE

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CONTROLS: SECRET BOGOTA 19204 TERREP STATE FOR INM/GELBARD, ARA/WATSON ARA/AND, AND DS/DSS/ITA, DS/I/CT NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG DEA WASHDC FOR OF, OFL, OFK, DO, AO, AX, OK, NK E.O.

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<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4606</TO>
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC
RUEHNA/DEA DIVISION OFFICE MIAMI FL
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4864
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 3838
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4340
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 3892
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC/CNOD//
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//CN//
RUEAIIA/CLIA WASHDC [REDACTED]
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