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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - PABLO ESCOBAR'S DEATH AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - PABLO ESCOBAR'S DEATH AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

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1. ON DECEMBER 7 THE SANTA CRUZ "EL MUNDO" (CENTRIST) PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "DRUG TRAFFICKING AND THE DEATH OF ONE OF ITS SINISTER HEADS." AN EXCERPT FOLLOWS:

"UNDOUBTEDLY, PABLO ESCOBAR DEATH'S IS A PRESENT FOR HUMANITY...."

"DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN SPITE OF THE BLOWS IT SUFFERS, WILL KEEP GROWING BECAUSE LARGE INTERESTS IN ALL THE WORLD ARE VESTED IN IT. WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT DRUG BUSINESSMEN THEMSELVES ARE THE ONES WHO ADVOCATE ITS LEGALIZATION AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD FAITH OF HONEST PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN DRUG DEPENALIZATION TO 'MAKE IT LESS HARMFUL BECAUSE ITS FREE COMMERCE WOULD ALLOW FOR REDUCED CONSUMPTION.' WE WOULD DO DRUG TRAFFICKERS A BIG FAVOR WITH THE LEGALIZATION OF THE GREATEST EVIL THAT HAS BEFALLEN HUMANITY...."

2. THAT DAY THE COCHABAMBA DAILY "LOS TIEMPOS" (CENTRIST) PUBLISHED A COMMENTARY BY SAMUEL MENDOZA ENTITLED "DRUG TRAFFICKING OR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT." IT SAYS IN PART: "...IN THE FACE OF THE DEATH AND ARREST OF THE DRUG 'LORDS' IN COLOMBIA, AS IN BOLIVIA, PERU AND OTHER COUNTRIES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO THINK THAT DRUG TRAFFICKING IS DOING POORLY AND THAT ITS END COULD BE NEAR...."

"THE CAPTURE OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS, THE DISMANTLING OF COCAINE LABORATORIES AND THE NEUTRALIZATION OF

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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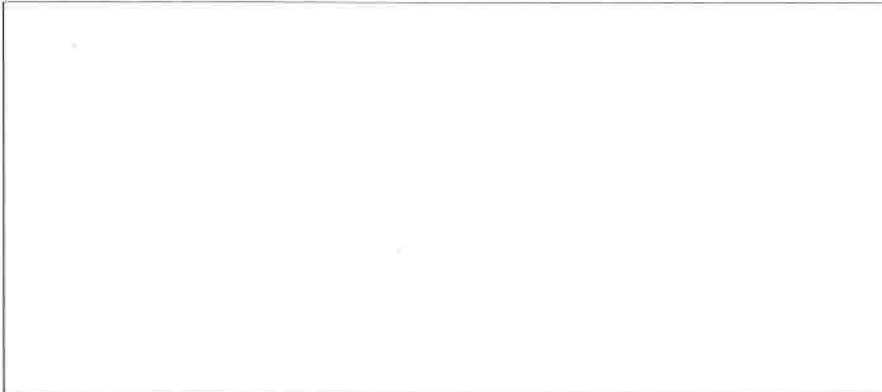
TRAFFICKING (ORGANIZATIONS) ARE EVERY DAY NEWS. THIS MEANS THAT SOON, SOONER THAN THE COCA-PRODUCERS CAN IMAGINE, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO BUY THEIR PRODUCTION OF THE LEAF THAT, WITHOUT BEING 'SACRED' OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRUG ADDICTION AND DEATH OF MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING BOLIVIA....

"THE FACT THAT ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT IS GAINING GROUND OVER COCA DAY BY DAY IS ENCOURAGING. THE DAY WILL COME IN WHICH--GOD WILLING--COCA WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A LEAF THAT CAUSED AND KEEPS CAUSING A LOT OF HARM TO OUR CAMPESINOS AND MINERS FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO OUR DAYS. LET'S HOPE THAT THIS HAPPENS SOONER THAN LATER."

WILLIAMS

END OF MESSAGE

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