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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- PABLO ESCOBAR


2. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES AND QUOTES FOLLOW:

A. DECEMBER 4 LEADING DAILY "EL TIEMPO" (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 245,000):

1) SUBHEADLINE (FRONT PAGE) -- "PRESIDENT GAVIRIA DECORATED THE (MEMBERS OF) THE SEARCH TASK FORCE":

HEADLINE -- "THE SIEGE THAT ESCOBAR DIDN'T ESCAPE FROM."

SUBHEADLINE -- "WITHOUT CARING THAT HE WAS THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD, A HUGE CROWD, WHICH TRIED TO TOUCH HIM AND LEAVE SOME MEMOIRS WITH HIM, ACCOMPANIED ESCOBAR TO THE GRAVE."

2) SUBHEADLINE -- "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECUPERATE ESCOBAR'S FORTUNE":

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer
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HEADLINE -- "WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE EXCESS OF OPTIMISM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL."

QUOTE -- "PABLO ESCOBAR'S DISAPPEARANCE WILL NOT HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO RECUPERATE THE COLOSSAL FORTUNE OF THE 'DRUG CZAR,' SAID ATTORNEY GENERAL CARLOS GUSTAVO ARRIBA. HE ALSO STATED THAT A LARGE PORTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WHO USED TO BELONG TO THAT ORGANIZATION AND GOT OUT TO FORM THEIR ORGANIZATION."

B. DECEMBER 4 SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 145,000):

1) HEADLINE (FRONT PAGE) -- "THE SEARCH IS NOT OVER."

SUBHEADLINE -- "GAVIRIA PRAISES THE JOB OF THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. 'OUR COMMITMENT IS TO PACIFY THE COUNTRY,' SAID THE PRESIDENT, AND HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PULL BACK IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME. THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ADHERED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. BURIAL IN ITAGUI."

2) HEADLINE (FRONT PAGE) -- "COLOMBIA'S VALUE GOES UP."

SUBHEADLINE -- "WITH ESCOBAR'S DEATH, THE CLIMATE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS IMPROVED. STOCKS GO UP."

3) HEADLINE -- "THE WORLD EXPECTS AN ATTACK ON THE OTHER CARTEL."

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE NEWSPAPERS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT THE RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA BROTHERS ARE STILL ACTIVE, AS PART OF THEIR REPORTS ON THE END OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL."

4) HEADLINE -- "WE ARE READY FOR MASSIVE SURRENDER."
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SUBHEADLINE -- "THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE ANDRES GONZALEZ ANNOUNCED THAT FIVE PRISONS ARE READY FOR THE SURRENDER OF 300 DRUG TRAFFICKERS."

5) HEADLINE -- "FIVE KINGPINS FROM CALI, THE NEW OBJECTIVE."

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE ORGANIZATION THAT CURRENTLY LEADS COCAINE TRAFFICKING IS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN ESCOBAR'S."


C. DECEMBER 5 "EL TIEMPO":

1) HEADLINE -- "ESCOBAR'S SECRET LETTERS."

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE SEARCH TASK FORCE FOUND REVEALING DOCUMENTS IN ESCOBAR'S HANDS. THE HEAD OF THE CARTEL AND HIS MEN WERE TRYING TO HUNT DOWN INFORMANTS, AND
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THEY WERE PREPARING A TERRORIST OFFENSIVE.

2) HEADLINE -- "LET'S BE CAREFUL WITH BEING TRIUMPHERS."

SUBHEADLINE -- "POLITICIANS, ECONOMISTS, AND PUBLIC FIGURES ARE CAUTIOUS ABOUT MAKING FORECASTS AFTER PABLO ESCOBAR'S DEATH. NEVERTHELESS, THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE POSITIVE CHANGES."


3) "EL TIEMPO" ALSO CARRIED THE RESULTS OF A NATIONWIDE SURVEY, AND THE RESULTS WERE THAT 76.7 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A VOLUNTARY SURRENDER BY PABLO ESCOBAR.

D. DECEMBER 5 "EL ESPECTADOR":

1) HEADLINE -- "I LEAVE A COUNTRY THAT IS MORE SURE OF ITSELF."

SUBHEADLINE -- "A FEW HOURS AFTER ESCOBAR'S DEATH, PRESIDENT GAVIRIA GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO 'EL ESPECTADOR' IN WHICH HE DEFENDED HIS PLEA BARGAINING POLICY. HE ADMITTED TO SOME MISTAKES. HE STATED THAT NOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF COLOMBIA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, AND HE SPOKE ABOUT WHAT COMES NEXT IN TERMS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING."

QUOTES -- "I DON'T THINK HAPPY IS THE RIGHT WORD. WHAT
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WAS SUCCESSFUL WAS THE POLICY OF STRENGTHENING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS STILL UNDER WAY, AND THAT, ADDED TO THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE SEARCH TASK FORCE AND THE DISSOLVING OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL, WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH ALL THIS. I THINK WE HAVE SAVED MANY INNOCENT LIVES. THERE WASN'T A CRIMINAL IN COLOMBIA THAT ENDANGERED AS MANY INNOCENT LIVES AS ESCOBAR DID.

"BEFORE THE PLEA BARGAINING POLICY EXISTED, THE COLOMBIAN STATE, ASIDE FROM EVENTUALLY KILLING A DRUG TRAFFICKER DURING AN OPERATION, NEVER MANAGED TO CAPTURE OR ARREST ANY DRUG TRAFFICKERS. THIS IS A REAL FACT. THOSE WHO PREFER THE PREVIOUS POLICY ARE THE ONES WHO PREFER IMPUNITY. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THERE ARE COLOMBIANS WHO WOULD RATHER GO BACK TO THAT. THE PLEA BARGAINING POLICY, WHICH HAD A SERIOUS SETBACK WITH ESCOBAR'S ESCAPE, HAS BEEN QUITE USEFUL IN PUTTING CRIMINALS IN JAIL, TRYING THEM, AND HAVING THEM PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES. YES, WE HAVE HAD A LEGISLATIVE PROBLEM BECAUSE THE SENTENCES IN COLOMBIA ARE RELATIVELY SHORT. THAT IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INSISTING ON INCREASING THE SENTENCES TO A MAXIMUM OF 60 YEARS (CURRENTLY IT'S 30 YEARS)."

"IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE OUR POLICY, BUT RATHER INSIST ON IT, BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THERE MAY BE (CRIMINAL) ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE MORE SOPHISTICATED AND THAT WORK DIFFERENTLY. BUT OUR OBLIGATION HAS BEEN AND WILL BE TO FIGHT THEM, WHATEVER AND WHOMEVER THEY MAY BE. WE HAVE NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO LOWER OUR GUARD. WHAT THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD KNOW IS THAT THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE LAW WILL FALL ON THEM AND THAT THEY CAN'T DEFY THE STATE AS ESCOBAR AND HIS MEN DID. THAT WE ARE GOING TO ADOPT AN ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE? THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE CONTENT WITH A COHABITATION WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS? NOT WHILE I AM THE PRESIDENT! I DON'T THINK SOCIETY WILL GO FOR THAT EITHER."

"I DON'T EVEN SEE ADVANTAGES TO A DISCUSSION ON DRUG

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LEGALIZATION). IN THE UNITED STATES, IN TERMS OF THE LAW AGAINST CRIME, WHAT SEEMS TO BE CLEAR IS THAT SOCIETY IN GENERAL IS HARDENING UP. IN THAT COUNTRY, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE MEDIUM OR A SINGLE POLITICAL LEADER WHO IS EVEN THINKING ABOUT WEAKENING THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING. THEY ARE INCREASING THE JAIL SENTENCES, AND THEY ARE ACTING IN A MUCH MORE SEVERE MANNER. THE FACT THAT A HANDFUL OF ACADEMICIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT LEGALIZATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE (AMERICAN) SOCIETY IS MOVING TOWARD THAT."

"IN THE POLICY OF COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT (ATPA -- ALSO KNOWN AS THE ANDEAN INITIATIVE) WAS APPROVED. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES SIMILAR BENEFITS TO THOSE OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME RESOURCES FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AS WELL AS COOPERATION WITH INTELLIGENCE, ALL OF WHICH HAS HELPED US, IN PART, WITH THE DISMANTLING OF THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE HAVE SET UP AN EXPERIENCE, UNIQUE IN LATIN AMERICA, WHICH IS THE ONE ABOUT JUDICIAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OBSTACLES IN THIS, BECAUSE THE LEGISLATIONS (LAWS) ARE DIFFERENT AND THE SHARING OF EVIDENCE IS NOT EASY. THIS COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO CONFRONT THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS. TO THINK OF TRYING THEM WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR INTERNATIONAL BRANCHES IS TO COME UP SHORT, TO SAY THE LEAST."

2) HEADLINE -- "THE ECONOMY OF DRUG TRAFFICKING."

SUBHEADLINE -- "IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THIS ACTIVITY MOVES ABOUT 10 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR WORLDWIDE. THE CALI CARTEL DOMINATES 80 PERCENT OF THE EUROPEAN MARKET AND 70 PERCENT OF THE U.S. MARKET, WHILE MEDELLIN PARTICIPATES WITH LESS THAN 20 PERCENT. DURING THE PAST DECADE, THOSE WHO TRADED IN NARCOTICS BROUGHT IN A SUM THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO 70 PERCENT OF COLOMBIA'S REMAINING FOREIGN DEBT. IT SEEMS THAT THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS
DECIDED TO CHANGE THE MECHANISMS TO BRING MONEY INTO THE COUNTRY. NOW THEY HIDE IT IN SERVICES ACCOUNTS AS PERSONAL INCOME OR TRANSFERS, OR THEY EVEN BRING IN THE CASH. THE ECONOMIC AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THEIR POLICIES ARE BEING THREATENED (BY THE SURPLUS OF CURRENCY)."

KOENGETER

END OF MESSAGE

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