

UNCLASSIFIED

24302602

TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S LATEST LETTER

ORIGDATE: 199301202207

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 00948

TEXT:

TAGS: OPRC, SOCI, SNAR, PGOV, PREL, US, CO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S LATEST LETTER

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG

1. THE JANUARY 20 EDITION CARRIED AS ITS LEAD EDITORIAL A PIECE ENTITLED "THE LETTER" WHICH SUPPORTS THE GOC'S REJECTION OF PABLO ESCOBAR'S RECENT LETTER IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS LOSS OF FAITH IN THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL PROCESS AND DECLARED HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE SAME CLASS AS THOSE OF THE GUERRILLAS. ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO OTHER RESPONSE.

2. FOLLOWING IS A QUOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL:

"PUBLIC OPINION IS ALERTED. MR. PABLO ESCOBAR HAS BROKEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND HAS STARTED A WAR. WE COLOMBIANS, ANXIOUS FOR PEACE AND YET HAVING HAD TO LIVE THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES (OF TERRORISM), UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RETURN TO AN ERA OF BLOOD, MOURNING, AND TEARS. WE ARE GOING TO FULFILL THE DUTY OF SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY FORCES, (AND) THE POLICE SO THAT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL AND FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT A TRANQUIL LIFE OF PEACE AND WORK WILL RETURN TO COLOMBIA MAKING KIDNAPPING, CRIME, AND TERRORISM THINGS OF THE PAST. THE NATION UNITED CAN DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST THIS NEW THREAT. WITHOUT UNDERVALUING THE DIMENSION OF THE RISKS EMBODIED IN THIS NEW CHALLENGE OF PABLO ESCOBAR, ONCE AGAIN WE THINK THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS, AS SAID ROOSEVELT, 'TO LOSE FEAR OF FEAR ITSELF.'

"THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE TRADITIONS OF COLOMBIA CONTINUED WITH THE ANSWER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE MESSAGE FROM THE DRUG TRAFFICKER. THEY ONLY ASK OF THE PUBLIC COURAGE, VALOR, AND SERENITY (TO CONFRONT THE

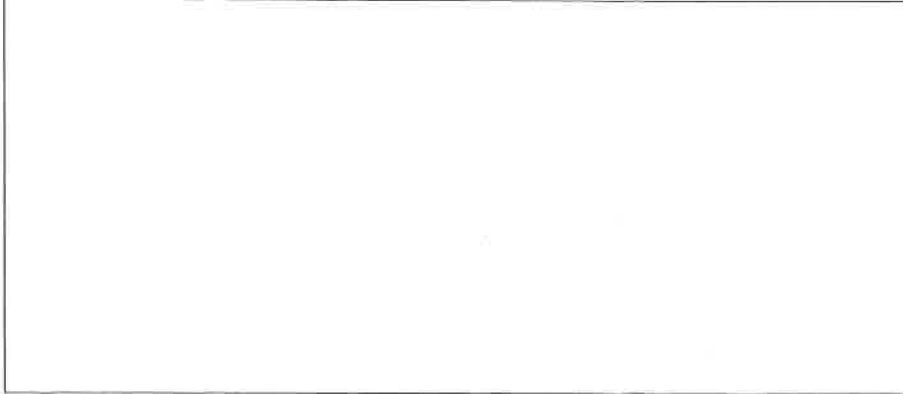
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior Reviewer

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IMPENDING ACTIONS OF ESCOBAR,  
FALINO

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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