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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR DECLARES WAR ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA

ORIGDATE: 199301201206

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 00869

TEXT:

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR DECLARES WAR ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA

1. JANUARY 19 LOCAL DAILIES CARRIED STORIES ON A LETTER
BY DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR SAYING THAT HE WILL NOT
TURN HIMSELF IN AND THAT HE DECLARES WAR ON THE GOC. HE
ALSO WANTS TO BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS THE
GUERRILLAS. HE WANTS HIS DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES TO
BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL, NOT CRIMINAL.

2. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES AND QUOTES FOLLOW:

A. JANUARY 17 LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL PARTY
ORIENTED, CIRC. 245,000):

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE DRUG TRAFFICKER SAYS HE WILL NOT
TURN HIMSELF IN AND THAT HE DECLARES HIMSELF A
SUBVERSIVE";

HEADLINE -- "STRONG REJECTION AGAINST ESCOBAR."

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT THE DRUG
TRAFFICKER'S LETTER IS A FALSE POLITICAL DRAPERY IN
ORDER TO COVER UP HIS CRIMES. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO
STATES THAT IT HAS NOT EVEN CONSIDERED NEGOTIATING WITH
HIM."

QUOTES -- "THE INTENTION EXPRESSED BY THE DRUG
TRAFFICKER IN THAT HE EXPECTS, STARTING NOW, TO BE GIVEN
THE SAME TREATMENT OF DIALOGUE (NEGOTIATIONS) AS THE
GUERRILLA GROUPS, WAS DESCRIBED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS
'POLITICALLY, JUDICIALLY, AND MORALLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior Reviewer

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THE SOCIETY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA."

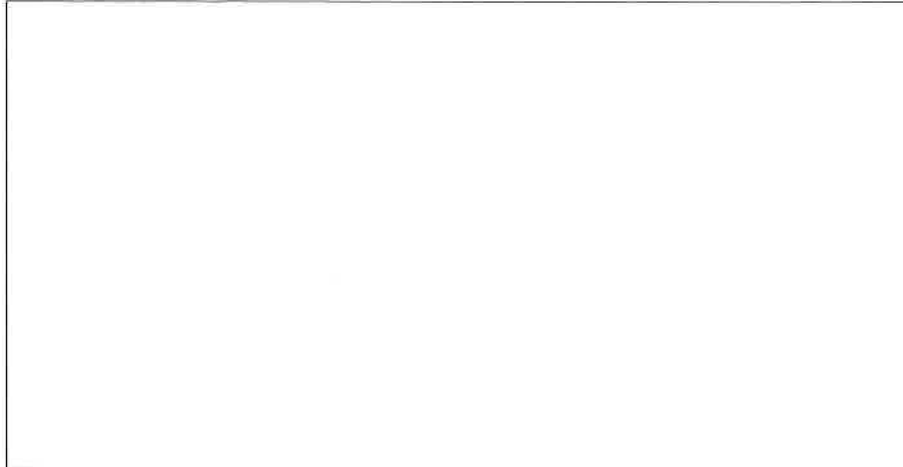
"THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY, HOURS AFTER THE CONTENTS OF A LETTER BY PABLO ESCOBAR SENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (DE GRIEFF) ON JANUARY 15 WERE MADE KNOWN...."

B. JANUARY 19 SECOND LEADING DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 145,000):

HEADLINE -- "THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (ARRIETA) QUESTIONS THE PLEA BARGAINING POLICY."

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT WITH HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CREATION OF A NEW CRIMINAL GROUP, PABLO ESCOBAR WANTS TO FOOL PUBLIC OPINION AND GET PARDONS."
FALINO

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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