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TITLE: SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1992

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TEXT:

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1992

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PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE:

COLOMBIA: ESCOBAR ESCAPE

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR?

A. THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ENFORCING THE LAW AND IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO RECAPTURE ESCOBAR. WE SUPPORT THEM IN THAT EFFORT AND WE HOPE THEY SUCCEED.

I WOULD NOTE THAT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY STRENGTHENED ITS CASE AGAINST ESCOBAR AND WAS PLANNING TO TRANSFER HIM TO A MORE ISOLATED AND SECURE PRISON IN PREPARATION FOR TRIAL.

Q. WILL THIS AFFECT OUR DRUG PROGRAMS?

A. NO. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR COOPERATION WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE WAR ON DRUGS.

THAT INCLUDES SUPPORT FOR THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE IN COCAINE INTERDICTION AND OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION, AIRCRAFT AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL POLICE, FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS, AND ASSISTANCE TO REFORM AND STRENGTHEN THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, COLOMBIA HAS SEIZED OVER 15 TONS OF COCAINE. SINCE LAST NOVEMBER, COLOMBIA HAS ERADICATED OVER 6000 HECTARES OF OPIUM POPPY.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

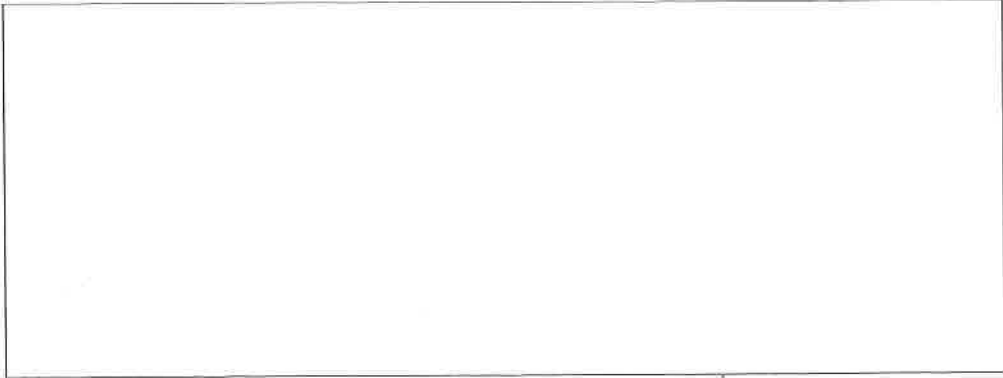
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Q. DOES THIS STRENGTHEN THE CARTEL?

A: IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY. HOWEVER, WE AND COLOMBIA
REMAIN DETERMINED TO CONTINUE COMBATTING THE CARTEL.

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END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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