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(b)(1), (b)(3)

4. (U) TERRORISM:

- (U) A. (S) COLOMBIA: DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS, THE MEDELLIN DRUG CARTEL INTENSIFIED THE TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE MEDELLIN (0636N 07535W) AREA. THE US EMBASSY RECENTLY ASSESSED SITUATION AND SPECULATED ON THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF DRUG-RELATED TERRORISM TO BOGOTA.
- (U) (1) (S) THE RECENT RESURGENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY THE MEDELLIN DRUG CARTEL HAS HIT MEDELLIN IN TWO WAVES. BETWEEN EARLY SEP AND OCT 92, HIRED GUNMEN, KNOWN AS "SICARIOS," KILLED APPROXIMATELY 25 PLAINCLOTHES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. THE ASSASSINATIONS APPEAR TO BE RETALIATORY STRIKES BY PABLO ESCOBAR FOR THE INTENSIVE MANHUNT OPERATIONS IN SEARCH OF HIM AND THE KEY CARTEL LEADERS.
- (U) (2) (S) THE SECOND WAVE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS BEGAN AFTER THE 28 OCT DEATH OF ESCOBAR'S TOP HENCHMAN IN A POLICE SHOOTOUT. LATE THE SAME DAY, SICARIOS BEGAN TARGETING UNIFORMED METROPOLITAN POLICEMEN. BETWEEN OCT-DEC, CLOSE TO 70 MEDELLIN POLICEMEN WERE MURDERED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. MEANWHILE, IN EARLY NOV, CORRESPONDING WITH THE START OF A NATIONWIDE GUERRILLA ESCALATION, 14 MEDELLIN MINI-POLICE STATIONS WERE BOMBER. SINCE THEN, THE VIOLENCE LEVEL HAS STEADILY INCREASED.
- (U) (3) (S) IN LAUNCHING THESE ATTACKS, ESCOBAR PUT A PRICE ON THE

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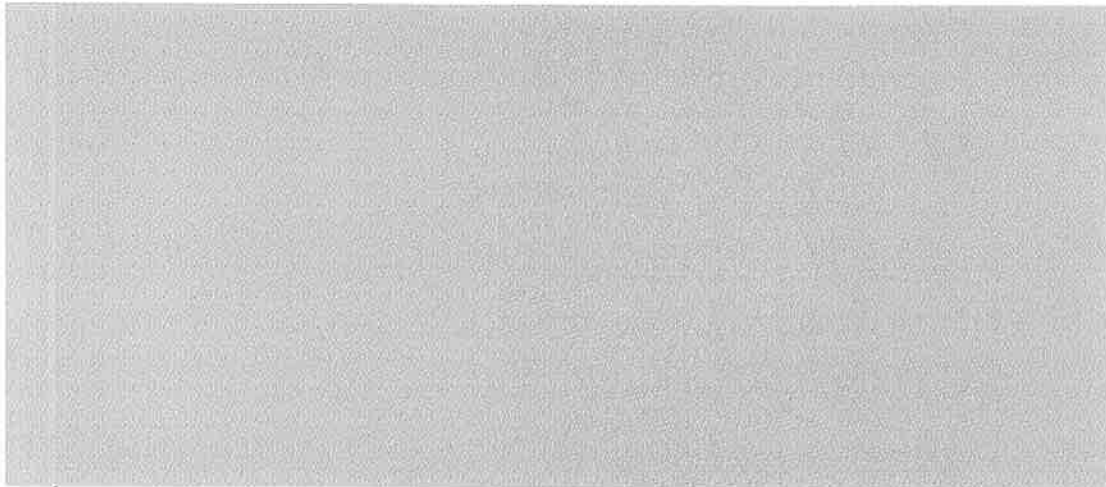
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HEAD OF MEDELLIN POLICEMEN. ACCORDING TO THE US EMBASSY, IT APPEARS TO BE AN OPEN-ENDED CONTRACT; ANYONE CAN COLLECT. THE TARGET NUMBER OF DEAD POLICEMEN IS RUMORED TO BE 100 AND THE GOING RATE IS 4 MILLION PESOS (APPROX. \$5,400 USD) PER "SCALP."

METROPOLITAN BEAT COPS, WHO HAVE NO ROLE IN THE MANHUNT, ARE PAYING THE PRICE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE SOFTER TARGETS. ESCOBAR IS ALSO COMBINING THE BOUNTY APPROACH WITH SOPHISTICATED AND WELL-PLANNED OPERATIONS THAT AIM AT TAKING OUT A NUMBER OF POLICEMEN SIMULTANEOUSLY AND INTIMIDATING THEM TO CUT BACK ON OPERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, ON 2 DEC, A CAR BOMBING RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 10 POLICEMEN AND 4 CIVILIANS' THE US EMBASSY SPECULATED THAT ESCOBAR SOUGHT AND OBTAINED SOPHISTICATED PLANNING ASSISTANCE, PERHAPS FROM ABROAD. ONE SOURCE FOR ASSISTANCE IS THE "POPULAR MILITIA" GROUP, A TYPE OF GUERRILLA FRONT PAID BY THE CARTEL.

(U) (4) (S) COMMENTS: THE GENERAL CONCENSUS IN COLOMBIA IS THAT ESCOBAR MAY FEEL THE NEED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE SINCE HIS TACTICS HAVE FAILED TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT POLICY WITH THE DRUG CARTELS. THE US EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS UNLIKELY ESCOBAR WILL SURRENDER AND MAY EVEN BRING HIS VIOLENCE TO BOGOTA. MEANWHILE, VIOLENCE IN MEDELLIN WILL CONTINUE, POSSIBLY AT A MORE INTENSE LEVEL. SHOULD THE VIOLENCE EXTEND TO THE CAPITAL, US PERSONNEL COULD BE EXPOSED TO GREATER RISKS OF BECOMING INCIDENTAL CASUALTIES; HOWEVER, THE DRUG CARTEL HAS SO FAR CONFINED ITS ATTACKS TO COLOMBIAN TARGETS' (AMEMBASSY BOGOTA/081500Z JAN 93 USCINTRANS INTEL CTR SCOTT AFB IL)



(b)(1), (b)(3)

6. (U) ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS REPORT SHOULD BE

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