

Non-Responsive

F. COLOMBIA: ON 07 APRIL, THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEWSPAPER EL ESPECTADOR STOPPED PUBLISHING EDITORIALS AND THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN THE PAPER IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NECESSARY GUARANTEES OF THEIR RIGHT TO EXERCISE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED THEM THAT GREATER SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES, AS THEY AWAIT THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO TO COLOMBIA. EL ESPECTADOR NEWSPAPER WAS PUBLISHED SATURDAY WITHOUT AN EDITORIAL, AN IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE PUBLISHED THIS WAY UNTIL THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO TO THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT STATED THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT THE EDITORS AND ADDED THAT THEY WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE MEMBERS OF THE CANO FAMILY AND THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION THAT IS BEING THREATENED BY THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. (FBIS CHIVA CHIVA)

G. COLOMBIA: STATE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE UNCOVERED A PLAN DRAFTED BY PABLO EMILIO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, THE ALLEGED MEDELLIN CARTEL CHIEF, TO ABANDON THE COUNTRY USING FAKE PAPERS AND PASSPORT. A HIGH-RANKING NATIONAL POLICE SOURCE TOLD THE PRESS THAT ALL SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON A STATE OF ALERT AND THAT SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL AT ALL AIRPORTS, ROADS, AND BORDERS HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ESCOBAR IS TRYING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND SEEK REFUGE SOMEWHERE WITH JOSE LUIS OCHOA VASQUEZ, WHO ALSO LEFT THE COUNTRY USING FAKE DOCUMENTS. IT WAS ALSO LEARNED THAT MEMBERS OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL HAVE ASKED FOR PROTECTION FROM THE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS. THEY HAVE SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM THE ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH SOME OF THE CARTEL'S ACTIONS. THE MEDELLIN CARTEL DEFECTORS DO NOT AGREE WITH THE USE OF CAR BOMBS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OR WITH THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF NATIONAL POLICE AGENTS. (FBIS CHIVA CHIVA)

H. BOLIVIA: ON 06 APRIL, BOLIVIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HECTOR ORMACHEA DENIED THAT THERE ARE U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN BOLIVIA COOPERATING IN THE ANTIDRUG STRUGGLE. HE ADDED THAT THE ONLY MILITARY TROOPS SENT BY THE UNITED STATES ARE THOSE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THE WORK ON PATI PATI HILL TO ALLOW THE EXTENSION OF THE POTOSI AIRPORT, 574 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF LA PAZ. THE DEFENSE MINISTER NOTED THAT EXCEPT FOR DOCTORS FROM THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND, THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW THE PRESENCE OF ANY FOREIGN MILITARY FORCE IN ITS TERRITORY. (FBIS ASUNCION)