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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4597
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
DEA WASHDC
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
DIRONDCP WASHDC
JOINTSTAFF WASHDC//CNOD//
NSC WASHDC
DIA WASHDC//CN//
CIA WASHDC
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

NSC FOR AMBASSADOR GILLESPIE
STATE FOR INM/LEVITSKY, ARA/ARONSON, ARA/AND, AND
DS/DSS/ITA, DS/I/CT
ONDCP FOR GOVERNOR MARTINEZ
DEA WASHDC FOR OF, OFL, DO, AC, AX, OC, NK

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PGOV, SNAR, AMGT, CO
SUBJECT: ESCOBAR FAMILY TARGET OF MEDELLIN BOMBINGS
1. (U) ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS TWO CAR BOMBS EXPLODED IN FRONT OF MEDELLIN APARTMENT BUILDINGS HOUSING FAMILY MEMBERS OF DRUG BARON PABLO ESCOBAR EARLY MORNING JANUARY 31. NO ONE WAS KILLED AND ONLY MINOR INJURIES WERE REPORTED IN THE TWO BLASTS, ONE ESTIMATED AT 100 KILOS OF DYNAMITE, THE OTHER AT 80. THE EXPLOSIONS IN THE EXCLUSIVE EL POBLADO RESIDENTIAL AREA DAMAGED BUILDINGS VARIOUSLY HOUSING ESCOBAR'S WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, HIS SISTER, AND HIS MOTHER. THE TWO BOMBS EXPLODED WITHIN TWO BLOCKS OF ONE ANOTHER AT ABOUT 12:30 AM.

2. (U) THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT UNIDENTIFIED MEN DYNAMITED THE FINCA (WEEKEND COUNTRY RETREAT) OF ESCOBAR'S MOTHER LATER THE SAME DAY. FIVE MEN APPROACHED THE FINCA AND ORDERED THE LONE CARETAKER OUT BEFORE BLOWING UP THE HOUSE WITH DYNAMITE.

3. (C) COMMENT: THESE ATTACKS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY RELATED, PERHAPS CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF THE GALLEANO-MONCADA ORGANIZATION RETALIATING FOR ESCOBAR'S MURDER OF THE TWO FORMER TRAFFICKING COLLEAGUES. BUT THERE ARE MANY TRAFFICKERS IN MEDELLIN AND CALI WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE ESCOBAR OUT OF THE PICTURE. BY TARGETING ESCOBAR'S FAMILY THEY MAY HOPE TO PROVOKE HIM INTO AN ESCALATING FEUD THAT COULD RAISE ESCOBAR'S PROFILE AND MAKE HIM MORE LIKELY TO BE FOUND, EITHER BY HIS CRIMINAL ENEMIES OR THE GOVERNMENT. GIVEN THE RECENT ESCOBAR-RELATED CAR BOMBINGS, ESCOBAR'S ENEMIES COULD ALSO PLANT BOMBS AND BLAME ESCOBAR, PUTTING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON ESCOBAR AS WELL AS ON THE GOC TO FIND HIM.

4. (C) OTHER POSSIBILITIES BEHIND THE ATTACKS COULD INCLUDE ROGUE POLICEMEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RASH OF BOMBINGS TO GIVE ESCOBAR A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE, OR EVEN ESCOBAR HIMSELF. IT SEEMS UNUSUAL NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED, EVEN GIVEN THE LATE HOUR, AND ESCOBAR HAS ALREADY SENT A LETTER (SEPTEL)
TO LOCAL NEWSMEDIA POINTING TO THE BOMBINGS AS EVIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE POLICE.

BUSBY

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