SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCBE-00 ADS-00 /00GW
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O 061524Z AUG 93
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHC IMMEDIATE 0171

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 05 BOGOTA 11849
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DEPT PASS TO
STATE FOR INM/LEVITSKY, ARA/WATSON
DEA WASHC FOR ADMINISTRATOR BONNER
DEPT JUSTICE FOR MARK RICHARD
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS FM FOR GEN JOULWAN
NSC WASHC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
CIA WASHC//CNC LINEAR//

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, PINR, CO
SUBJECT: UNRAVELING THE FEPES TANGLED WEB

REF: BOGOTA 11628

1. SECRET -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN THE HUNT FOR PABLO ESCOBAR, THE GROUP
KNOWN AS "LOS FEPES" (PERSONS PERSECUTED BY PABLO
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ESCobar) HAS SPREAD VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION ACROSS
COLOMBIA IN THE NAME OF "JUSTICE". THE GOC HAS LONG
BEEN WORRIED THAT POLICE OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN
COOPERATING WITH LOS FEPES.
3. On January 30, Escobar detonated a 100-kilogram bomb in a congested area of downtown Bogota, killing 21 people and wounding over 70. The following day, "La Cristalina," a hacienda owned by Escobar's mother, was burned to the ground. "Los Pepes" announced its existence on February 2, stating that it would conduct acts of violence against Pablo Escobar and his family, on a one-for-one basis, in retaliation for any further terrorist acts committed by Escobar.

4. Throughout February, Los Pepes continued their spectacular attacks on Escobar properties. Their operations, including the burning of two properties which housed members of his immediate family, destruction of priceless art works, and torching a prized antique car collection, seemed designed to
DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GROUP WAS CAPABLE OF STRIKING AT
ESCOBAR'S MOST VULNERABLE POINTS.

5. ON FEBRUARY 28, A KEY ESCOBAR ASSOCIATE, LUIS
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LONDONO WHITE, WAS KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED BY LOS PEPES.
THE FOLLOWING DAY, ESCOBAR'S BROTHER-IN-LAW AND
ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEF, HERNAN DARIO HENAO-QUINTERO, WAS
KILLED IN A CNP OPERATION, AND ON MARCH 3, ESCOBAR
LAWYER Raul Jairo Zapata was found murdered, allegedly
by LOS PEPES. THEN, ON MARCH 4, LOS PEPES ANNOUNCED VIA
A MEDELLIN RADIO STATION A MORATORIUM ON ATTACKS AGAINST
ESCOBAR AND HIS ASSOCIATES. THE MORATORIUM WAS
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DEA WASHDC FOR ADMINISTRATOR BOSNER
DEPT JUSTICE FOR MARK RICHARD
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NSC WASHDC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
CIA WASHDC/CINC LINEAR//
SECRET

Date Printed: 21-Mar-2001

TAGS: FCGR, SNAR, DRO, CO

SUBJECT: UNRAVELING THE PEPE'S TANGLED WEB

ALLEGEDLY DESIGNED TO GIVE ESCOBAR TIME TO NEGOTIATE TERMS FOR HIS SURRENDER, WHICH THE GROUP CLAIMED WAS IMMINENT. IN THE MEANTIME, SCORES OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR MAIMED AS ESCOBAR'S BOMBS CONTINUED TO GO OFF IN BOGOTA AND MEDELLIN, AND THE BLOCUE CONTINUED VERY ACTIVE IN MEDELLIN, WITH A SERIES OF ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES SECRET

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EITHER CAPTURED, KILLED OR TURNING THEMSELVES IN TO THE POLICE, APPARENTLY FEARING FOR THEIR LIVES. THIS GROUP INCLUDED CARLOS ALZATE UQUILIO, AKA "ARETE", A NOTORIOUS ESCOBAR ASSASSIN; DIEGO LONDONO WHITE, WHOSE BROTHER WAS MURDERED BY LOS PEPE'S; AND EIGHT OTHER SICARIOS AND TRAFFICKERS.

6. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ASSASSINATIONS OF ESCOBAR SICARIOS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO "LOS PEPE'S" DURING THEIR ALLEGED TRUCE. ON APRIL 4, THE GROUP RESCINDED THE MORATORIUM BECAUSE ESCOBAR HAD NOT SURRENDERED. LOS PEPE'S THEN KILLED TWO MORE ESCOBAR ATTORNEYS IN BOGOTA AS THEY DEPARTED LA MODELO PRISON, AND A THIRD LAWYER, GUISO PARRA, AND HIS SON WERE GUNNED DOWN ON APRIL 16 IN THE WAKE OF ESCOBAR'S MASSIVE APRIL 15 CAR BOMB IN BOGOTA. THE WORD WAS ALSO SPREAD THAT ESCOBAR WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH, WHETHER HE SURRENDERED OR NOT, AND WOULD BE KILLED IN PRISON IF NECESSARY.

SOC TAKES STOCK AND DOES DAMAGE CONTROL

7. ON APRIL 13, GIVEN THE BLOODSHED AND CONTINUED KILLINGS ATTRIBUTED TO LOS PEPE'S, AND THE INTENSITY OF THE TERROR CAMPAIGN, AMBASSADOR BUSBY MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR, GABRIEL SILVA TO EXPRESS HIS STRONGEST RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE GROUP.

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9. On April 17, Los Pepes again announced a unilateral ceasefire in the press, and a week later stated publicly that the group was disbanding due to GCC opposition to their activities. Their violent activities continued.
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HOWEVER, INCLUDING KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS,
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY REPORTING. ALTHOUGH LOS PEPEs
PUBLICLY RESTATED THEIR DECISION TO DISBAND ON 6 JUNE,
RECENT EMBASSY REPORTING INDICATES THAT THE GROUP
CONTINUES TO OPERATE, AND WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POWER.

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THE FISCAL BEGINS TO UNRAVEL THE WEB
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DATE PRINTED: 21-MAR-2001
DOC NBR: 1993BOGOTA11849
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NSC WASHDC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
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