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SECRET

Date Printed:
21-Mar-2001

DOC_NBR: 1993BOGOTA11849

CHANNEL
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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 11849 01 OF 05 061526Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 ADS-00 /000W
-----DFF009 061527Z /38

O 061524Z AUG 93
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0171

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 05 BOGOTA 11849

NODIS DECAPTIONED

DEPT PASS TO
STATE FOR IMM/LEVITSKY, ARA/WATSON
DEA WASHDC FOR ADMINISTRATOR BONNER
DEPT JUSTICE FOR MARK RICHARD
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS FM FOR GEN JOULWAN
NSC WASHDC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
CIA WASHDC//CNC LINEAR//

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

REF: BOGOTA 11628

1. SECRET -- ENTIRE TEXT.

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(b)(3)

2. SUMMARY: IN THE HUNT FOR PABLO ESCOBAR, THE GROUP
KNOWN AS "LOS PEPE'S" (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 PEPE'S.

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HAS NOW TOLD AMBASSADOR BUSBY THAT HE
HAS NEW, "VERY GOOD" EVIDENCE LINKING KEY MEMBERS OF THE
POLICE TASK FORCE IN MEDIANI CHARGED WITH CAPTORING
PABLO ESCOBAR GAVRIJA, (THE UNLOCHE DE BVSQUEDA) TO
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED BY
LOS PEPE'S. OUR OWN REPORTING SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY HAS

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 6 NOV 2001 200004432

FOIA/PA
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() Exclae
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Mandatory Review
() Declassify
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() Class. Re/Renew

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Exemptions 1.5(B)
ARP Action Cert. [Signature] Date 11/20/01

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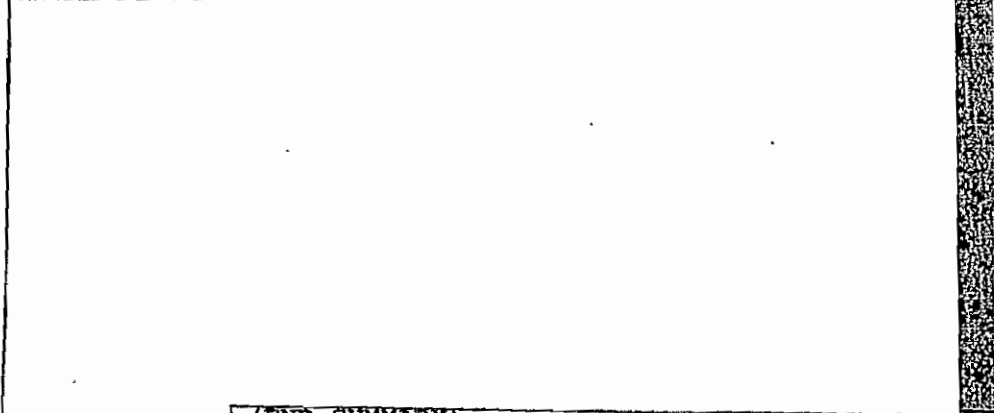
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ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE POLICE WERE COOPERATING WITH THE GROUP AT SOME LEVELS INCLUDING SHARING INFORMATION



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(END SUMMARY)

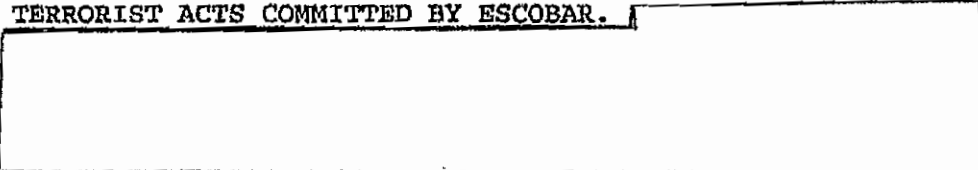
BACKGROUND ON LOS PEPES

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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 BASES, IN RETALIATION FOR ANY FURTHER TERRORIST ACTS COMMITTED BY ESCOBAR.



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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

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DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GROUP WAS CAPABLE OF STRIKING AT
ESCOBAR'S MOST VULNERABLE POINTS.

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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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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0172

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 05 BOGOTA 11849

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DEPT PASS TO
STATE FOR INM/LEVITSKY, ARA/WATSON
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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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 BLOQUE CONTINUED VERY ACTIVE IN MEDELLIN, WITH A SERIES OF ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES

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

6. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ASSASSINATIONS OF ESCOBAR SICARIOS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO "LOS PEPES" DURING THEIR ALLEGED TRUCE. ON APRIL 4, THE GROUP RESCINDED THE MORATORIUM BECAUSE ESCOBAR HAD NOT SURRENDERED. LOS PEPES THEN KILLED TWO MORE ESCOBAR ATTORNEYS IN BOGOTA AS THEY DEPARTED LA MODELO PRISON, AND A THIRD LAWYER, GUIDO 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.

GOC TAKES STOCK AND DOES DAMAGE CONTROL

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

THE GOC'S FIRM POLICY WILL BE MAINTAINED AND STRONG ACTION AGAINST ANYONE INVOLVED WITH LOS PEPES WILL BE TAKEN IN A SEPARATE MEETING. MOD BARRIO EXPRESSED THE SAME VIEW AND SAID

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EVERY RUMOR WAS BEING PASSED TO THE TISCALITA AND PROSECUTORIA FOR INVESTIGATIONS. PARDO SAID THE GOC COULD NEVER AFFORD TO LET THE CNP GET INVOLVED WITH THE PEPES. WITHIN THE NEXT DAYS, ACCORDING TO PALO REPORTING, CNP DIRECTOR GENERAL MIGUEL ANTONIO COMEZ PADILLA, INFORMED PARDO THAT HE HAD DIRECTED A SENIOR CNP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH FEDEL CASTAÑO, PARAMILITARY LEADER OF LOS PEPES FOR THE PURPOSES OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION. PARDO IMMEDIATELY ORDERED ALL CONTACT TERMINATED, AND INSISTED THAT THE OFFICER BE RELIEVED. THIS WAS IN EFFECT DONE THE NEXT DAY.

ON APRIL 16, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF LOS PEPES, PRESIDENT CAVIRIA CALLED A MEETING OF HIS KEY ADVISORS. ACCORDING TO SENSITIVE PALO REPORTING, PARDO, DE GREFFER, AND PROCURADOR CARLOS GUSTAVO ARRUEBA PABILLA, WERE PRESENT. CAVIRIA REVEALED A DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY REPORT WHICH DESCRIBED LINKS BETWEEN MEDELLIN-BASED CNP AND DIJIN OFFICIALS, AND LOS PEPES. HE TOLD ALL PRESENT THAT WHATEVER WAS GOING ON WAS TO CEASE. AFTER THE MEETING, CAVIRIA REPORTEDLY CALLED DIJIN COMMANDER GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE MONDENEIRO RINCO, AND ORDERED HIM TO PASS THE WORD THAT LOS PEPES MUST BE DISSOLVED IMMEDIATELY. THE PALO SOURCE OPINED THAT MONDENEIRO HIMSELF WAS NOT A MEMBER OF LOS PEPES, BUT AS COMMANDER OF POLICE INTELLIGENCE KNEW SOME OF THE MEMBERS, AND WAS AWARE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. CAVIRIA'S EFFORT TO SEND SUCH AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO LOS PEPES VIA ONE OF HIS KEY POLICE COMMANDERS, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT THE PRESIDENT

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BELIEVED POLICE OFFICIALS WERE IN CONTACT WITH HEADERS OF LOS PEPES. THE GOC ALSO ISSUED A STRONGLY WORDED PRESS RELEASE CONDEMNING THE PEPES AND STATING THAT THEY WOULD BE PROSECUTED IF FOUND.

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 GOC OPPOSITION TO THEIR ACTIVITIES. THEIR VIOLENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED,

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0173

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 05 BOGOTA 11849

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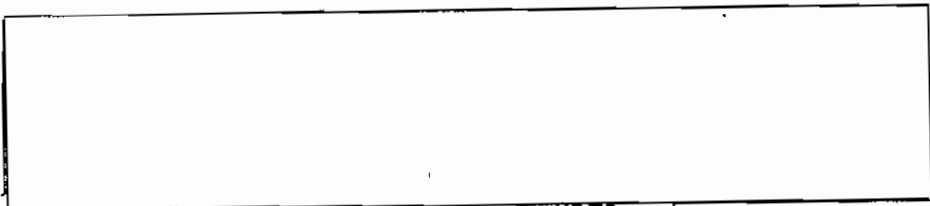
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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HOWEVER, INCLUDING KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS,
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY REPORTING. ALTHOUGH LOS PEPES
PUBLICLY RESTATED THEIR DECISION TO DISBAND ON 6 JUNE,
RECENT EMBASSY REPORTING INDICATES THAT THE GROUP
CONTINUES TO OPERATE, AND WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POWER.

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THE FISCAL BEGINS TO UNRAVEL THE WEB



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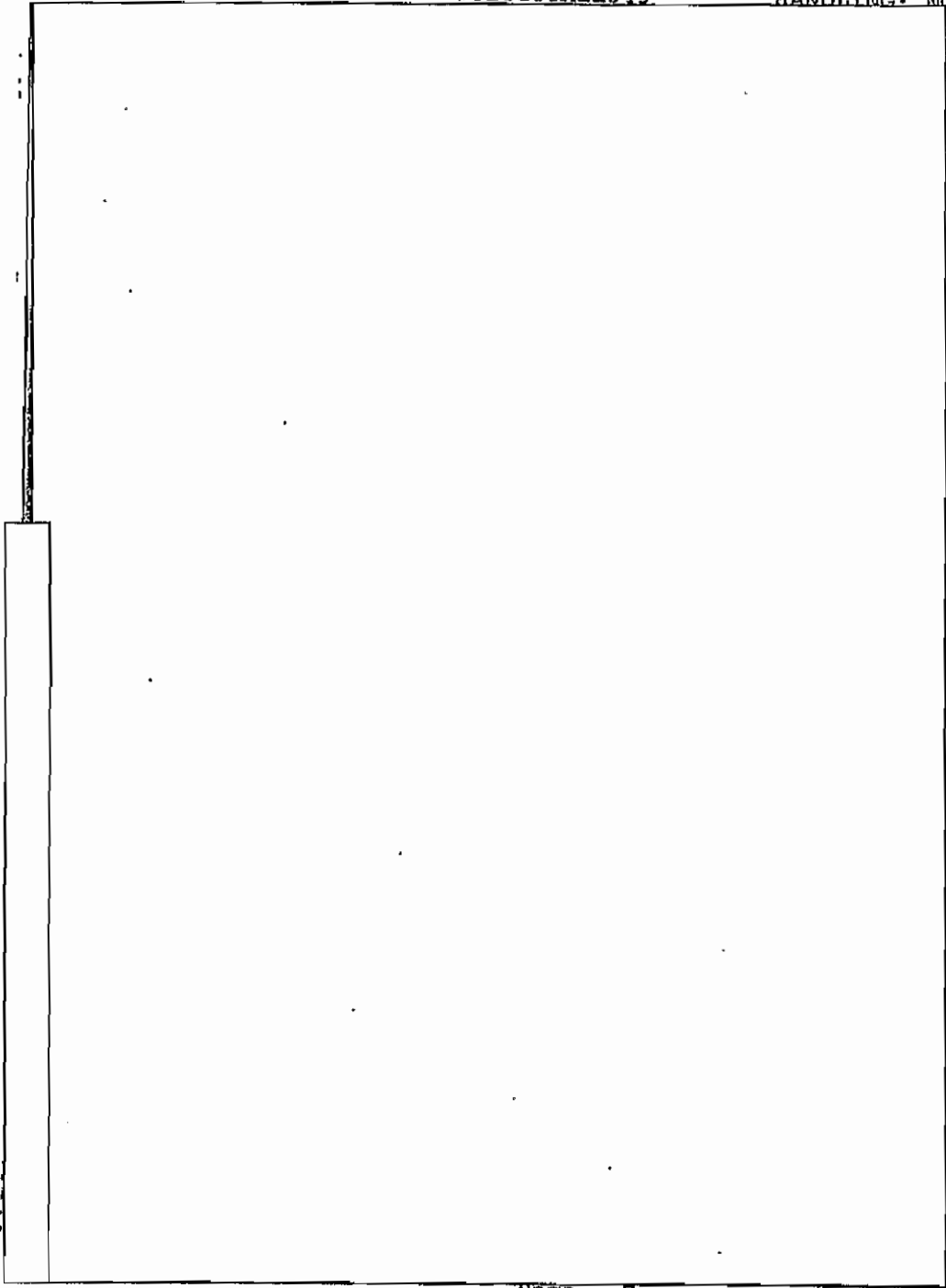
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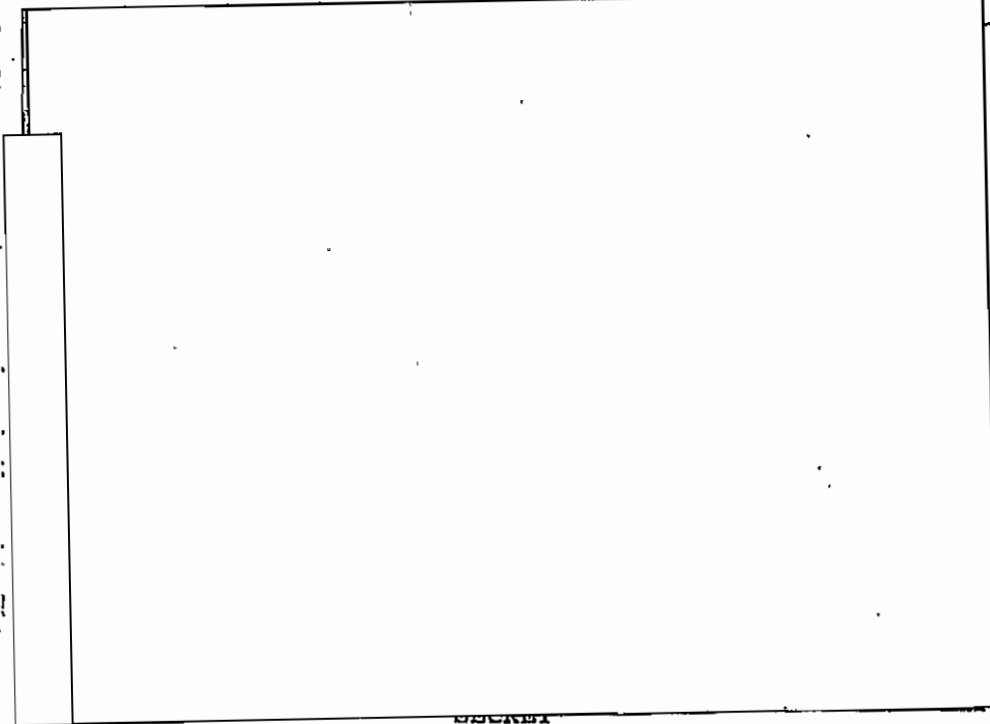
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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S E C R E T SECTION 04 OF 05 BOGOTA 11849

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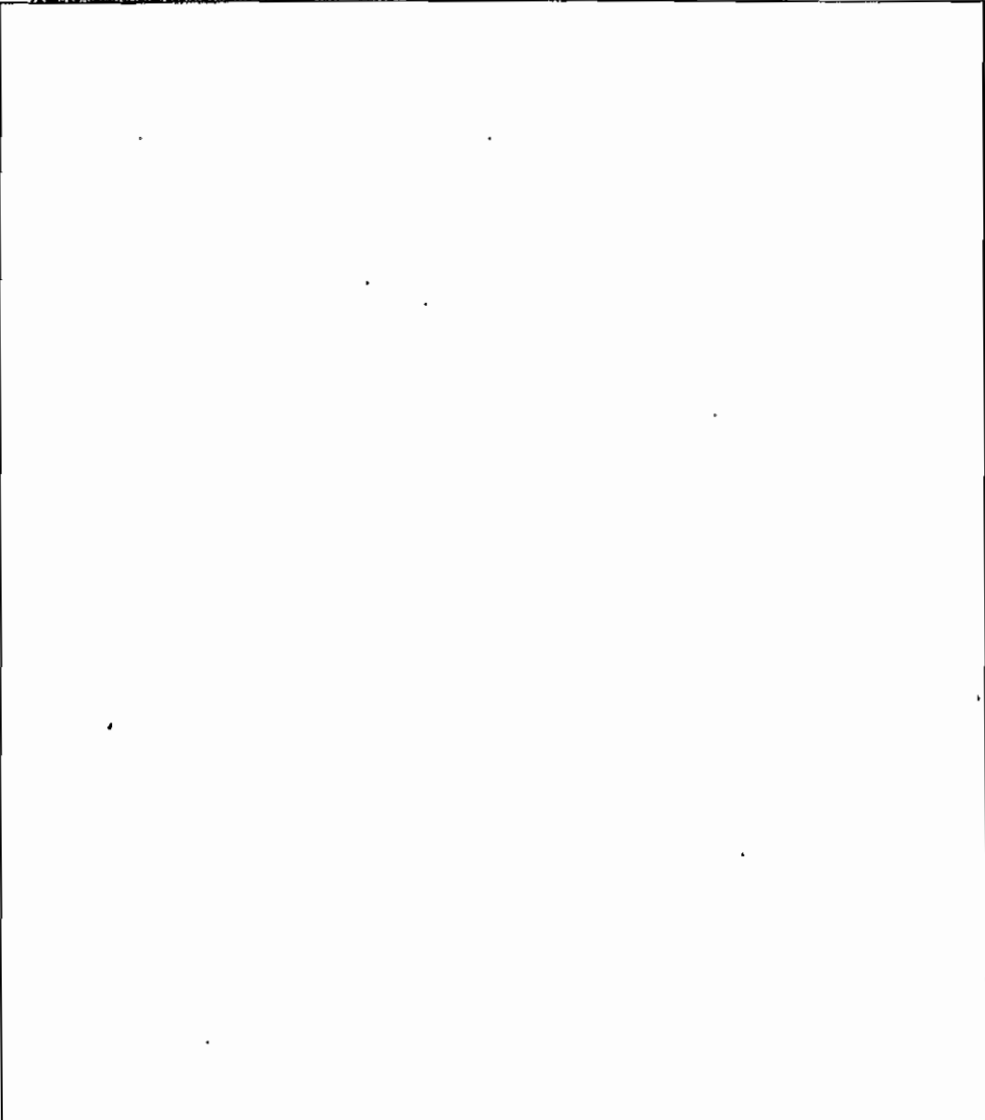
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CAVIRTA CONFRONTS DIFFICULT CHOICES

16. PRESIDENT CAVIRTA IS FACED WITH SEVERAL CRITICAL DECISIONS AT THIS POINT. HE MUST DEAL WITH THE ISSUE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REMOVE THE OFFENDERS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, NOT DISCREDIT THE POLICE EFFORTS AGAINST ESCOBAR. THE FUNDAMENTAL MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM IS SUCH THAT CAVIRTA IS CLEARLY AWARE THAT HIS HANDLING OF THIS SITUATION COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS THE IMAGE OF COLOMBIA. HE IS PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY, AND AS WE HAVE SEEN IN OTHER CRISES, IS CLEARLY WEIGHING THE ALTERNATIVES.

17. AS HE ATTEMPTS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THIS SITUATION ON THE HUNT FOR ESCOBAR AND THE POLICE IN GENERAL, CAVIRTA MUST ASSESS THE THREAT TO HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THE CALI CARTEL. CALI CLEARLY HAS BEEN PURSUING ITS OWN AGENDA THROUGHOUT THE ESCOBAR AFFAIR. SURELY PENETRATION OF THE MEDITERRAN TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ONE OF THEIR OBJECTIVES, AND CORRUPTING POLICE OFFICIALS IS AN OLD GAME WITH THEM. IF CALI HAS CONCRETE INFORMATION OF ELOQUE MISDEEDS THAT COULD EMBARRASS THE COC, IT COULD BE A POWERFUL TOOL AS THEY PURSUE POTENTIAL SURRENDER NEGOTIATIONS. WE KNOW KEY CALI TRAFFICKERS HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR POWER THROUGH NEW BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH DISAPPOINTED MEDITERRAN-BASED TRAFFICKERS, AND HAVE SUPPORTED LOS PERES' EFFORTS.

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FACTORS AGAINST RETICENT ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES. THE IMPLICATION OF KEY POLICE OFFICIALS, AND PERHAPS OTHER HIGH-LEVEL COC OFFICIALS IN THESE AGONYACTS, OF THE FACT THAT HIGH-LEVEL OFFICERS MAY BE OPERATING ON THE PAY OF THE CALI CARTEL, COULD DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE CALI'S POSITION.

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