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ACTION INM-02

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	COME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01
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R 151452Z APR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6925
 INFO DEA WASHDC
 DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 JOINTSTAFF WASHDC//CNOD//
 DIA WASHDC//CN//
 CIA WASHDC//CNC LINEAR//
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD//G2//DCN LINEAR//
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
 HQS/CUSTOMS WASHDC
 COGARD INTELCOORDCEN W WASHDC
 USCINCFOR FT MCPHERSON GA
 DEA EPIC EL PASO TX
 DIRFBI WASHDC//CID UNIT 6//NSC WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//J-3//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L B O G O T A 0 5 8 0 8

NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
 STATE FOR INM/LEVITSKY, ARA/WATSON, ARA/AND, AND
 DS/DSS/ITA, DS/I/CT
 DEA WASHDC FOR OF, OFL, DO, AO, AX, OK, NK
 CUSTOMS FOR OIC/MEEHAN

E.O.: 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV SNAR, ASEC, CO
 SUBJECT: GOC FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR ON LATEST
 DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR ESCOBAR

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REF: BOGOTA 5667 *N*

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING A CONVERSATION APRIL 13, GOC PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR GABRIEL SILVA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IT WAS NOT ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL THAT PUBLICITY REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR PABLO ESCOBAR HAD COOLED OFF SOMEWHAT IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. SILVA EXPLAINED THAT THE GOC HAD BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXPECTATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT UP CONCERNING THE PABLO ESCOBAR TASK FORCE (BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA) IN MEDELLIN IN THE MINDS OF THE PUBLIC. STARTING WITH THE SAM DONALDSON PIECE AND MOVING TO THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE CAPTURE OF ESCOBAR ASSOCIATES, SILVA INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT EXPECTATIONS WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY. "IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR POLICY NOT TO RAISE

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 EXPECTATIONS," SILVA SAID. AS A RESULT, THE GOC HAD CONSCIOUSLY REDUCED PUBLICITY. (COMMENT: WHILE SILVA IS UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECT, WE HAVE ALSO NOTED A SLOW DOWN IN THE FRENETIC PACE OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH WAS THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE OPERATIONS UP TO TWO WEEKS AGO WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT ALSO BE PART OF THE GOC'S GAME PLAN. SILVA HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD DCM THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY THE GOVERNMENT'S OPINION THAT ESCOBAR WILL NOT SURRENDER AND THAT CAPTURING HIM SOON IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY. THIS IS A VIEW SHARED BY MANY IN THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE END COMMENT.)

3. SILVA ALSO SAID THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT PERHAPS ESCOBAR HAS LEFT THE MEDELLIN AREA, MAKING THE PROCESS OF FINDING HIM EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. HER SAID THERE WAS SEPCULATION THAT ESCOBAR HAD MADE A DEAL WITH THE ELN AND WAS UNDER THEIR PROTECTION. IF IN FACT ESCOBAR HAD GOTTEN TOGETHER WITH THE ELN, THIS COULD CREATE "A MONSTER."

4. SILVA CONFIRMED NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS HAVING TROUBLE DEVELOPING A CASE AGAINST ROBERTO ESCOBAR, PABLO ESCOBAR'S BROTHER, WHO SURRENDERED EARLIER AND IS BEING HELD IN ITAGUI. SILVA LAMENTED THAT NO ONE HAD ANY EVIDENCE AGAINST ROBERTO, QUOTE

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NOT EVEN THE U.S. UNQUOTE. THE GOC WAS FINDING THAT THE ONLY CHARGES THEY COULD DEVELOP WERE THOSE RELATED TO THE FLIGHT OF PABLO ESCOBAR FROM ENVIGADO IN JULY, 1992.

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5. COMMENT: SILVA'S INFORMATION ABOUT THE TASK FORCE IS TIMELY. THE SLOWDOWN IN PUBLICITY HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. TAMING COLOMBIAN PUBLIC (NOT TO MENTION FOREIGN) EXPECTATIONS IS A GOOD IDEA, ESPECIALLY IF THE PROSPECTS OF CATCHING ESCOBAR SOON ARE DIMINISHED. BUSBY ##

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