[redacted]

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SITUATION REPORT [redacted] (DI IN SITREP 90-007)

JULY 1990

CONTENTS

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ITEM 2: COLOMBIA: GOVERNMENT REFOCUSES ON COUNTERNARCOTICS [redacted]

NOW THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS OVER, THE BARCO GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING THROUGH ON PLANS TO STEP UP ANTIDRUG EFFORTS, SPECIFICALLY AGAINST MEDELLIN DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT AGAINST ESCOBAR TO DATE HAS BEEN BESET BY PROBLEMS, WE BELIEVE IT IS SUCCEEDING IN STRIPPING AWAY THE LAYERS OF SECURITY THAT SURROUND HIM. ESCOBAR, NONETHELESS, REMAINS CAPABLE OF VIOLENT RETALIATION. [redacted]

PRESIDENT BARCO HAS MADE CLEAR HE INTENDS TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THE DRUG INDUSTRY. [redacted]

STRATEGY AND TACTICS

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO APPREHEND ESCOBAR CALLS FOR STEPPED-UP MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE KINGPIN'S SECURITY AND SUPPORT NETWORKS IN MEDELLIN, A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, AND A NEW EFFORT TO BUILD A LEGAL CASE AGAINST HIM. [redacted] THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITED SOME 20,000 SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL TO MEDELLIN AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE IN ITS SEARCH FOR ESCOBAR. THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) HAVE MEANWHILE INCREASED THE REWARD OFFERED FOR ESCOBAR'S CAPTURE. [redacted] THE CNP HAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED SOME 20,000 PAMPHLETS IN MEDELLIN GIVING FULL DESCRIPTIONS AND DETAILS ON ESCOBAR AND HIS 12 CLOSEST TRAFFICKING ASSOCIATES. IN ADDITION, A PUBLIC ORDER JUDGE RECENTLY ISSUED AN ARREST WARRANT FOR ESCOBAR FOR HIS ALLEGED ROLE IN THE MAY 1989 FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY HEAD GENERAL MAZA. [redacted]

[redacted]

COMPLICATIONS

[redacted]

IN ADDITION, THE MEDELLIN POLICE FORCE IS SUFFERING FROM FLAGGING MORALE AND DESERTIONS AS A RESULT OF ATTACKS AGAINST ITS MEMBERS, [redacted] MORE THAN 160 POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY ESCOBAR'S CRONIES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IN THE MEDELLIN AREA. FURTHERMORE, CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN THE JUDICIARY--SUCH AS THE RECENT RELEASE OF FOUR OF ESCOBAR'S TOP LEGAL AND POLITICAL ADVISERS BY A LOCAL JUDGE--ARE UNDERCUTTING THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DISMANTLE THE KINGPINS' SUPPORT NETWORK. COLOMBIA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTEDLY IS INVESTIGATING PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT POLICE IN THE MEDELLIN AREA--FRUSTRATED OVER WEAK JUDICIAL PROCEDURES AND REPEATED ATTACKS ON POLICEMEN--ARE TORTURING AND EXECUTING SUSPECTED TRAFFICKER ASSASSINS. [redacted]

PROSPECTS

[redacted]

ESCOBAR, NONETHELESS, REMAINS FULLY CAPABLE OF ESCALATING THE

VIOLENCE, AN OPTION HE WILL PROBABLY EXERCISE AS THE GOVERNMENT INCREASES ITS ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS. HE PROBABLY WAS THE AUTHOR OF A RECENT PRESS COMMUNIQUE FROM THE ''EXTRADITABLES'' RENEWING THE TRAFFICKERS' DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THE CAR BOMB ON 19 JUNE IN MEDELLIN THAT KILLED FOUR POLICEMEN AND WOUNDED 20 CIVILIANS IS PROBABLY A FOREWARNING. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]