

presented to the public. For the drug traffickers, it was not a surprise at all, because they were expecting the statement. . . . It could be said that this is blackmail.”

That same day, the anti-drug newspaper *El Espectador* also called the proposal “blackmail,” and said, “Whitewashing a deal or a surrender in a battle to which Colombia’s dignity is committed would be intolerable.”

Guido Parra

Playing a major role in the formulation of the “Notables/ Extraditables” exchange alongside López Michelsen was Guido Parra, Pablo Escobar’s lawyer, who had already represented Medellín Cartel interests in the Vallejo Arbeláez affair. Parra’s connections to the mob go back to at least 1974, when he represented the department of Antioquia before the lower house of Congress as a congressional alternate to Bernardo Guerra Serna, today a powerful senator whose name figures prominently on the U.S. State Department’s visa blacklist, because of his suspected ties to the drug cartels.

Between Guido Parra’s congressional stint and his work as the Medellín law partner of another López Michelsen collaborator, former Attorney General Carlos Jiménez Gómez, Guido Parra earned his credentials as an agent of the drug

cartels. Jiménez Gómez’s four-year term (1982-86) as Attorney General paralleled López’s efforts to force a negotiated accommodation with the drug cartels, and included at least one personal attempt at mediation immediately after López’s own 1984 tête-à-tête in Panama with the cartel kingpins. Jiménez Gómez also dedicated much of his energies to appeasing the narco-terrorists by using his high office to persecute the military under the pretext of defending “human rights.”

Like his collaborator Vallejo Arbaláez, Parra turned to the press for both maximum publicity and maximum pressure on the government. After the release of the “Extraditables” response to the “Notables” letter, Parra presented a document to the media which detailed his and the others’ roles in the negotiating process. In it, Parra confirmed López’s critical role in formulating the “Extraditables” so-called surrender offer. Wrote Parra, “It is worth stressing the extraordinary idea of the surrender, whose authorship belongs to the lucid mind of Dr. Alfonso López Michelsen. . . . The Gordian knot of the conflict was untied by the multi-faceted use of that proposal.” Parra also claimed that the “Notables” sent a message to Pablo Escobar urging him to protect himself from the state security agencies, since his capture would make the

The Extraditables’ record of satanic terror

The satanic mind that governs the leaders of the cocaine cartels was never more brutally expressed than in 1988, when Colombia’s cocaine kings sent a letter to a Colombian judge which threatened not only to kill her, but to eradicate all generations of her family from the face of the Earth, if she were to find drug kingpin Pablo Escobar guilty of the December 1986 murder of *El Espectador* newspaper director Guillermo Cano. That judge has since been forced into exile. Signing themselves “the Extraditables,” their letter stated in part:

“We have decided to write you again to declare the following: We are friends of Pablo Escobar Gaviria and therefore ready for anything. We have learned that you propose to call him to trial in the Cano case. . . . We have also heard rumors according to which, after his trial, you will be given the benefit of a diplomatic post abroad. But we want to remind you that . . . you are committing a serious error that could stain your life and will leave you ill-fated until the end of your days. You know perfectly well that we are capable of executing you anywhere on this planet. You should also know that meanwhile, you

will see all the members of your family fall one by one. We advise you to rethink, now, since later you will have no time to lament. Be absolutely assured that if you call Mr. Escobar to trial, you will remain without descendants or offspring on your family tree. . . . If this letter doesn’t tell you anything, we ask that you take into account the cases of Tulio Manuel Castro, Hernando Baquero, Gustavo Zuluaga Serna, Alvaro Medina, Carmencita Londoño, Lara Bonilla, Colonel Ramírez, Parejo González, etc., etc., etc. [all mafia victims—ed.]. We advise you not to mess with Pablo Escobar Gaviria.”

Despite all their professions of patriotism and offers of surrender during the past eight months, the Extraditables remain evil thugs. Notwithstanding the cosmetic efforts of certain political and press outlets, both domestic and foreign, to present the traffickers as “businessmen” willing to make a deal, or as patriots prepared to invest in their country, their actions continue to speak for themselves.

● In August 1989, immediately following their assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán, the Extraditables sent a communiqué to “the people of Colombia” protesting the government’s refusal to negotiate with them, and promising:

“We will continue our fight and our total war against the anti-nationalists, the sell-outs, and we declare absolute war on the government, the industrial and political oligarchy, the journalists who have attacked and affronted us,

process fail.

Parra's document also introduced a third interlocutor: the government of the United States. Parra said that as a show of good faith on the part of the Colombian government, there had been "preparatory efforts of a diplomatic nature to extract from the U.S. authorities statements which discredited the mechanism of extradition as the sole means of fighting the drug trade." The U.S. State Department more than complied. At least three times in 1990, it has issued statements rejecting extradition as "a long-term solution" for the Colombian drug problem. U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Thomas McNamara reportedly assured the media that the Bush administration would not object to Colombian government's efforts to strike a deal with the cartels.

The Londoño White brothers

Santiago Londoño White, described by Parra as a negotiator for the government in the Montoya kidnaping, is yet another cog in the López Michelsen machine. He is the prominent Antioquian businessman who served as López Michelsen's campaign treasurer in 1982 and accepted campaign donations from the Medellín Cartel. He also organized the meeting in Panama between López and the cartels. Londoño

earned his considerable fortune building the bomb-proof bunkers and estates of drug chieftain Pablo Escobar. Along with his brother and business partner Diego, Santiago has been publicly identified as an "investor" in the Medellín Cartel. And both Santiago and Diego Londoño White were named by NBC-TV in August 1988 as "helping the heads of the [Medellín] Cartel invest millions of dollars in Brazilian real estate."

Today, Guido Parra and Diego Londoño White are in jail, accused under the state's anti-terrorism statute of collaborating with narco-terrorists. In a May 20 interview to the daily *El Tiempo*, López complained bitterly that his colleagues were being treated "as if they are accomplices of the drug traffickers." When Parra's praise of López's role in the "Notables/Extraditables" dialogue was first published, the former President did not deny his part. He is now claiming he has had no contact with Parra for the past 15 years, and denounces as a "fabrication" taped evidence in the hands of the courts that he had sent a warning to Escobar, through Parra, to be careful.

Is Alfonso López Michelsen perhaps nervous that he may be next to be charged with "aiding and abetting" narco-assassins?

the judges who have sold out to the government, the extraditing magistrates, the presidents of associations, and all those who have pursued and attacked us. We will not respect the families of those who have not respected our families, and we will burn and destroy the properties of the oligarchy."

- In November 1989, the Extraditables claimed responsibility for blowing up an Avianca airliner after it took off from Bogotá's El Dorado Airport. All 107 people aboard were killed. The action, said an anonymous caller, was directed against police informants allegedly aboard the flight. Bomb fragments were later discovered, confirming sabotage.

- In December 1989, a giant truck bomb packed with an estimated 1,100 pounds of dynamite exploded during morning rush-hour outside the headquarters of Colombia's security and intelligence agency (DAS), killing at least 35 and injuring 350. The bomb, which damaged the first nine floors of the building and other structures up to 10 blocks away, opened a crater 15 yards wide.

- In March 1990, the Extraditables issued a statement denying involvement in the assassination of the presidential candidate of the leftist Patriotic Union party, Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa. The statement also denounced the government's refusal to accept their "peace offerings" and declared the Extraditables in "a state of alert." One excerpt of the lying statement reads: "We emphatically reject

militarism, torture, disappearances, murders, genocide, and human rights violations."

- On March 31, 1990, the Extraditables issued a communiqué pledging to explode 11,000 pounds of dynamite in one of Bogotá's most prestigious neighborhoods if several of their number were not released from jail immediately. They threatened the usual list of judges, politicians, and so forth, and also pledged to murder one member of the Cano newspaper publishing family for every Colombian extradited to the United States. Less than one week later, on April 5, a 1,700-pound bomb, which police said could have killed 5,000 people, was defused in a wealthy suburb of Bogotá. The next day, the Extraditables issued a statement pledging to continue the war against the government. "We will respond with bombs and executions to extradition and disappearances," said the statement.

- On April 11, more than a dozen people—including eight policemen—were killed and 72 wounded in a 220-pound car-bomb blast directed against an elite police unit in the city of Medellín. During the first two weeks of April, more than 40 policemen were murdered by mafia hit-men and car bombings in Medellín, after Pablo Escobar offered a reward of 4 million pesos (\$40,000) for every policeman killed (20 million pesos for an officer). On April 25, another car bomb blew up a police truck and killed at least 10 people, including a four-year-old child.