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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SS-15 SP-02 L-02 /069 W
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P R 012042Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7801
INFO DEA HQ WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2891

DEPT FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, S/NM; CARACAS FOR DEA; DEA FOR EOIL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJ: INTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS, COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 1998

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, AMBASSADOR HAS SET FOLLOWING INTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA. THESE GUIDELINES REPRESENT A MODIFICATION OF INTERIM EXPERIMENTAL GUIDELINES DRAWN UP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT AT NARE, WHERE DEA AGENTS WERE CAUGHT IN A SHOOT-OUT BETWEEN DAS AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS. BECAUSE GOC HAS YET TO ISSUE ITS EXPECTED REGULATION DEFINING RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN RESPECT TO NARCOTICS, AND BECAUSE ANY SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING DEA AGENTS WOULD PLACE OUR ENTIRE NARCOTICS EFFORT HERE IN GRAVE JEOPARDY, ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WITHIN THE MISSION AGREE THAT WE CANNOT RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE-NARE. END SUMMARY

2. AS NOTED, THE GUIDELINES ARE INTENDED TO GOVERN DEA OPERATIONS HERE UNTIL GOC PUTS ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY IN NO POSITION TO AGREE UPON MORE PERMANENT INTERNAL
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GUIDELINES UNTIL GOC HAS PROPERLY ORGANIZED ITSELF. IF THE

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NECESSARY UTLACTION#
DECISIONS ARE DELAYED SUBSTANTIALLY, I
WILL PERSONALLY APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE GOC AUTHORITY TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERS DAS TO HAVE PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION RESPONSIBILITY. THE ENTERIM DEA OPERATING GUIDELINES ARE DESIGNED ACCORDINGLY.

3. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE OPERATING GUIDELINES ENUMERATED BELOW ARE INTENDED TO REFLECT THE CURRENT REALITIES OF THE COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT SCENE. THE INCIDENT AT NARE RAISED GOC HACKLES UP TO THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. WITH OUR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION OPERATION NOW UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY, WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO OPERATE IN THE SAME MANNER AS BEFORE. TO DO SO WOULD PLACE IN JEOPARDY THE SUCCESSFUL DEA OPERATION WE HAVE SO CAREFULLY BUILT UP HERE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. IT IS FAR BETTER, I AM CONVINCED, TO ACCEPT TEMPORARILY SOME RESTRICTIONS IN OUR OPERATIONAL PATTERN WITH THE GOAL OF PRESERVING OUR SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION RELATIONSHIP WITH GOC AND GIVING THAT GOVERNMENT TIME TO IRON OUT ITS OWN KNOTTY BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS.

4. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES REFLECT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COLOMBIAN LAW AND PRESIDENTIAL INTENT WHICH WE INTERPRET AS GIVING TO THE DAS PREFERENTIAL AUTHORITY IN THE AREA OF NARCOTICS JURISDICTION. WE EXPECT THAT THE GOC WILL ISSUE SOON A POLICY STATEMENT DEFINING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS REGARDS NARCOTICS INTERDICTION RESPONSIBILITIES. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THIS FORTHCOMING REGULATION WILL RECONFIRM DAS AS THE PRIMARY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION JURISDICTION.

5. PENDING THE ISSUANCE OF NEW REGULATIONS:

A. DEA WILL CONSIDER THE DAS AS THE BASIC INSTRUMENT FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION IN COLOMBIA.

B. NO DEA AGENTS, EITHER RESIDENT OR ON TEMPORARY DUTY, NO ONE FROM OUTSIDE, AND NO CIS WILL PARTICIPATE IN ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE ADVANCE PERMISSION OF THE AMBASSADOR OR CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS REPRESENTATIVE AND WITHOUT NOTIFYING AND OBTAINING PERMISSION OF THE DAS.

C. AS STATED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE GUIDELINES, DEA SHOULD COOPERATE PRIMARILY WITH THE DAS. THIS WILL NOT PRECLUDE, HOWEVER, SHARING OF TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS AND COOPERATION WITH THESE AGENCIES IN DEVELOPING BOTH OPERATIONAL FOLLOW-ON INTELLIGENCE FROM CASES

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DEVELOPED AND DEFENDANTS ARRESTED BY THESE AGENCIES.

D. SOURCES DEVELOPED LOCALLY BY DEA NEED NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH ANY GOC AGENCY.

E. IN GENERAL, DEA PERSONNEL WILL NOT ACCOMPANY GOC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHILE AN OPERATION IS UNDERWAY. DEA PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS REQUIRES ADVANCE AMBASSADORIAL APPROVAL.

F. REQUESTS FOR DEA PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS WITH F-2 OR CUSTOMS WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS (THE PRESUMPTION IS AGAINST SUCH OPERATIONS), AND WOULD REQUIRE A) PRIOR AMBASSADORIAL APPROVAL; AND B) PRIOR COORDINATION WITH DAS.
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NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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