



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 30597

Department of State

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 1193

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07981 230253Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

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

SNM-02 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

V068 W

ACTION RD DATE

SBV	JFR
DHE	JDM
DEM	USE-00 NSAE-00
DDC	LGE
ML A	10-05 L-03 SS-15
RAD	CIRCULATE

COMMENTS 042047 F Colombia

R 221459Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 356
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO US CUSTOMS WASHDC
DEA MIAMI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7981

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: COCAINE SMUGGLING VIA BANANA BOATS
(GFT: OPERATION BANANAS)

REF: STATE 197576, BOGOTA 7793 DEA 12971 AND 12870

SUMMARY: DEA SAIC GONZALEZ AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF COCAINE SMUGGLING FROM TURBO PORT WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL AND GOC CUSTOMS. DEA HAS ARRIVED AT WORKABLE PLAN FOR INTERDICTION AT COLOMBIAN END. SAIC AND NARCOR PLAN TRAVEL MEDELLIN THIS WEEK RESUME CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVT AND POLICE OFFICIALS WHICH WE BAKAN LATE LAST YEAR AS RESULT SIMILAR RASH OF COCAINE SMUGGLING INCIDENTS.

1. SAIC AND NARCOR HAVE DISCUSSED TURBO COCAINE SMUGGLING WITH GOC ATTORNEY GENERAL, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE AND CHIEF OF CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNIT. DEA HAS PROPOSED, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS APPROVED,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



Department of State

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 07981 230253Z

WORKABLE PLAN ATTEMPT INTERDICT COCAINE BEFORE IT LEAVES TURBO VIA BANANA BOAT. PLAN INVOLVES CREATION TO TWO TWO FIVE-MAN CUSTOMS UNITS BASED AT MEDELLIN AND TRAVELING TO TURBO FOR SPOT CHECKS ON BANA BOATS JUST PRIOR TO SAILING. UNITS WILL CONTINUE SEARCH UNTIL SHIP CLEARS CHANNEL, RETURNING TO PORT VIA PILOT BOAT. IN ORDER AVOID TIPPLING THEIR HAND TO SMUGGLERS, UNITS WILL BE BASED AT MEDELLIN, ARRIVING AT TURBO ONLY WHEN BANANA BOATS READY TO SAIL FOR US.

2. MISSION WILL SUPPORT SOME COSTS THIS OPERATION THROUGH AVAILABLE 481-482 FUNDS ALLOCATED TO GOC CUSTOMS. TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR FIVE-MAN UNITS WILL BE PROVIDED BY DEA/BDO SPECIAL AGENT WHO HAS EXTENSIVE US CUSTOMS EXPERIENCE. INFORMATION ON SAILINGS WILL BE OBTAINED FROM UNION DE BANANEROS MEDELLIN. OPERATION OUTLINED PARA ONE ABOVE NEEDS FINAL APPROVAL GOC CUSTOMS DIRECTOR GENERAL OCAMPO, WHICH WE EXPECT OBTAIN WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

3. SAIC AND NARCO WILL TRAVEL TO MEDELLIN (CAPITAL OF ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT WHERE TURBO LOCATED AUG 22-23 FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNMENT AND UNION BANANEROS OFFICIALS THERE.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA, JAIME R ECHAVARRIA RESIGNED YESTERDAY. DEA BEGAN CONTACTS WITH ECHAVARRIA AND LOCAL F-2 COMMANDER LAST OCT AT GOV BEHEST AND AS RESULT AWARENESS GROWING TURBO COCAINE SMUGGLING PROBLEM. UNTIL NEW GOVERNOR NAMED, DEA WILL FOLLOW ABOVE PLAN, WORKING WITH CUSTOMS AND UNION BANANEROS (SEE DEA BOGOTA MEMO OF OCT 21 1974 FOR BACKGROUND.)
VAKY

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 30597

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE