



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 3416

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 30597

PAGE 01 STATE 222598

44

ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 OMB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 /038 R

ACTION

DATE

9/19

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:GBROWN/PM

APPROVED BY ARA:WLUERS

S/NM:ROUGSTAD

OMB:EJOHNSON

DEA:TCOSTAKI

ARA:FJDEVINE

SBV

HE

DEM

PC

JFR

JDM

CGB

LGT

OTHER

024225

CIRCULATE

P R 181716Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

COMMENTS: X

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222598

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ' COMMUNIQUE ON U.S. RESPONSIBILITY
FOR DRUG TRAFFIC IN COLOMBIA

REFERENCE: A. BOGOTA 8825; B. BOGOTA 8826; C. STATE 219462

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED PRESIDENT LOPEZ' COMMUNIQUE BLAMING
THE USF FOR DRUG TRAFFIC IN COLOMBIA AND YOUR COMMENTS. WE
AGREE WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMUNIQUE NOT BE
TAKEN AS A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION, AND OUR RESPONSE TO THE
ISSUE AT THE NOUN BRIEFING (REFTEL CC) ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH
THE ISSUE IN A MODERATE TONE.

2. WHILE PRESIDENT LOPEZ WAS, WE BELIEVE, UNDULY ONE-SIDED

CONFIDENTIAL

7



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 222598

IN LAYING THE BLAME ON US, THE ISSUE HE RAISED AND HIS CONCERN ARE, INDEED, VALID. THE MEXICANS, TOO, HAVE POINTED OUT THE PROBLEM TO US, PRIVATELY HOWEVER. WE AGREE CERTAINLY THAT AN IMPORTANT CAUSE OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC IN COLOMBIA IS THE DIFFICULTY IN COMBATING IT IN THE U.S. THE ISSUE IS ONE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL NOW, AND ITS REPORT WILL CONTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS THAT SHOULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE U.S.

3. HENCE, WE DO NOT LOOK UPON PRESIDENT LOPEZ' COMMENTS AS

PLACING HIM IN FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH US. RATHER, IT EMPHASIZES THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH IT. WE DO NOT INTERPRET HIS REMARKS AS AN INDICATION OF SLACKENING OF INTEREST ON HIS PART IN COMBATING THE DRUG TRAFFIC IN COLOMBIA. CERTAINLY WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH HIM IN THE JOINT EFFORT. IN THE U.S. WE, FOR OUR PART, EXPECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MOVE DIRECTLY AGAINST SOME OF THE MAJOR TRAFFICKING NETWORKS WHICH ARE THE CAUSE OF HIS CONCERN.

4. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 30597

CONFIDENTIAL