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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 284459

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TAGS: SNAR, CO, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: INFORMATION FOR COLOMBIA ON US NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM LUERS

1. AS YOU RECALL VERY WELL, DURING OUR CALL ON PRESIDENT LOPEZ HE ASKED ABOUT THE EXTENT OF OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BRIEF THE PRESIDENT ON THE EXTENT OF OUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

2. TO DEAL WITH THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN MEXICO, GOM'S ACTIVITIES ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE GENERAL CATEGORIES: (1)

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ERADICATION OF OPIUM POPPIES AND MARIJUANA (2) INTERDICTION, AND (3) DEMAND REDUCTION THROUGH EDUCATION AND TREATMENT REHABILITATION. WE PROVIDE THE GOM ASSISTANCE IN ALL THREE CATEGORIES, BUT CCINC FUNDS GO LARGELY FOR ERADICATION OF OPIUM POPPIES--AN ACTIVITY NOT NECESSARY IN COLOMBIA. TOTAL FUNDS FOR FY-74 AND 75 AMOUNTED TO 20 MILLION DOLLARS. IN FY-76 THE PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY REACH SIX OR SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS. THE GOM HAS BEEN SPENDING AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF SOME 25MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR THE TOTAL DRUG EFFORT. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOM WILL INCREASE THIS SUBSTANTIALLY THIS YEAR.

3. IN THE THREE CATEGORIES CCINC ASSISTANCE BREAKS OUT ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ERADICATION. TOTAL U.S. ASSISTANCE THROUGH FY-1975 WAS ROUGHLY 20 MILLIONSDOLLARS IN CCINC FUNDS, PRINCIPALLY FOR HELICOPTERS, FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY POPPY DETECTION SYSTEM. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO MOVE TROOPS INTO THE POPPY FIELDS AND TO SUPPORT THEM FROM ADVANCE BASES IN THE REMOTE AREAS WHERE THE POPPIES ARE GROWN.

B) INTERDICTION. THE CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH FY-75 WAS APPROXIMATELY 300,000 DOLLARS THAT IS IDENTIFIABLE PRINCIPALLY FOR INTERDICTION. OF COURSE THE AIRCRAFT PROVIDED FOR ERADICATION ARE ALSO USED OCCASIONALLY IN SUPPORT OF INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES. THE GOM PROVIDES VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS OWN TRAINING REQUIRMENTS. IN ADDITION DEA HAS A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FOR COLLABORATING IN THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS HERE AND IN MEXICO.

(C) DEMAND REDUCTION: THE CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH FY-75 IS APPROXIMATELY $100,000 FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

4. AS IS EVIDENT IN THIS BREAKOUT, THE MAIN THRUST OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE THE SOPHISTICATED AND COSTLY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR AN EFFECTIVE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. THAT IS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE STRATEGY IN MEXICO FOR DEALING WITH THE HEROIN PROBLEM.

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5. IN COLOMBIA, OF COURSE, THE STRATEGY FOR COCAINE MUST BE BASED ON INTERDICTION, A TASK THAT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO MECHANICAL SOLUTIONS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER HELICOPTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT COULD EFFECTIVELY BE USED IN INTERDICTION. WE WILL BE CONSIDERING THAT QUESTION AND WILL PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH OUR PRELIMARY VIEWS FOR YOUR DISCUSSION WITH THE GOC.

6. YOU MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS ASSIGNED FULL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY COMBATTING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. CONSOLIDATING THIS FUNCTION UNDER ONE OFFICER HAS ENABLED THE MEXICANS TO CONDUCT A COORDINATED EFFORT. IT HAS ALSO GREATLY FACILITATED OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SINCE WE DEAL WITH A SINGLE OFFICE FOR PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND MANAGING BOTH CCINC PROGRAMS AND DEA ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL OF OUR PROAGS ARE NEGOTIATED AND CONCLUDED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. WE REALIZE THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS ORGANIZED DIFFERENTLY, BUT BELIEVE GOC MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO IN ORGANIZING ITSELF TO DEAL WITH NARCOTICS.

7. FYI: IN DRAWING UPON THE ABOVE INFORMATION CONCERNING MEXICO, YOU SHOULD HAVE IN MIND THAT THE EXTENT OF OUR ASSISTANCE IS NOT A MATTER THE GOM LIKES TO AEKNOWLEDGE OR HAVE PUBLICIZED. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAS A "NEED TO KNOW" FROM THE STANDPOINT OF COMPARING HIS PROGRAM AND COOPERATION WITH US, AND WILL RESPECT THE MEXICAN SENSITIVITY ON THE ISSUES AS WE DO. END FYI.

8. AMBASSADOR JOVA HAS CONCURRED. INGERSOLL