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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01862 221523Z

42
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /009 W
---------- 080527
R 201855Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1862

FOR S/NM, AMBASSADOR VANCE

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO: 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJ: OPERATION KITCHEN

1. WHEN YOU VISITED BOGOTA IN JANUARY, WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CCINC FUNDING FOR DEA RECORDING EQUIPMENT LOANED TO THE GOC NATIONAL POLICE FOR "OPERATION KITCHEN". DEA-BOGOTA INFORMS ME THAT THEY MUST RECALL THIS EQUIPMENT AT THE END OF KITCHEN NEXT MONTH UNLESS SOME MEANS IS FOUND TO PAY FOR GIVING IT TO THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCO UNIT.

2. I REALIZE THAT FUNDING EQUIPMENT USED IN WIRE TAPS MAY GIVE YOU SOME PROBLEMS. I HASTEN TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT IS LEGAL IN COLOMBIA. WIRE-TAP EVIDENCE IS, IN FACT, ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN COLOMBIAN COURTS IF PRIOR COURT AUTHORIZATION FOR USE IS OBTAINED. I AM ASSURED THAT SUCH AUTHORIZATION IS BEING OBTAINED IN ALL NARCOTICS CASES FOR WHICH THE EQUIPMENT IS AND WOULD CONTINUED TO BE USED.

3. RECORDING EQUIPMENT LOANED BY DEA HAS BEEN KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF OPERATION KITCHEN. ITS USE RESULTED IN A RECORD 420-KILOGRAM COCAINE SEIZURE. THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCO UNIT--THE BEST OF ITS KIND IN COLOMBIA--IS UNDERSTANDABLY ANXIOUS TO RETAIN THIS EQUIPMENT FOR FOLLOW-ON INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING FROM KITCHEN. I URGE YOU TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT COME UP WITH APPROXIMATELY 10,000 DOLLARS TO REPAY DEA FOR THE EQUIPMENT AND
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TURN IT OVER TO THE NATIONAL
POLICE FOR PERMANENT USE BY THE NAR-
COTICS UNIT.
VAKY

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NNN

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