THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RP 2659 2

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April 28, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: Peter Bourne P.B.

SUBJECT: Colombian Cocaine Traffic

Thank you for your memo to the Secretary of State on this topic.

We have spent a considerable amount of time addressing current policy with regard to cocaine and we are in the process of forming an interagency coordinating group to reassess our position. It is an area where present policies are ineffectual and quite unsatisfactory. At the same time it is a highly complicated problem which unlike heroin trafficking offers no easy solutions.

The level of corruption related to the cocaine traffic in Colombia is of almost unbelievable proportions with overwhelming evidence that the present Minister of Defense as well as the likely successor to President Lopez-Michelsen are involved directly. Colombian co-operation in our effort's to curtail trafficking have declined correspondingly. I doubt that words alone, no matter how strong, are going to significantly change the situation. I had planned to accompany Assistant Secretary Todman to Colombia next month, but other commitments preclude it. Ms. Mathea Falco Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State for narcotic matters will go with him. If you feel it would be helpful I can arrange to go to Colombia in the near future if not on that particular trip.

At some point at your convenience I would like to discuss this issue with you in more depth.

PGB:ss

c.c. Secretary of State

Suggested incorporation into itinerary of Mrs. Carter. OK 5/2/77

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E.O. 13526
Authority NLC-11-3-12-2-4
NARA Date 5/18/16