COLOMBIA

Arguments and Charges President Lopez May Advance

1. He will blame the U.S. for the entire drug problem and for the corrupting of Colombians.

- Reply - Admit that demand for drugs in the U.S. is a base of the problem. We are working to deal with it at home (P.B. may wish to expand on new initiatives being planned by the Carter Administration). You might note that abuse is, unfortunately, growing in many areas of the world and there is a growing realization that it is an international problem. Whether it is considered an American or international problem, we are asking our friends in many parts of the world to work with us to combat it.

2. President Lopez may try to turn things around and refer back to his original request for $50 million. He may insist that if we are serious about dealing with the drug problem, we must provide more funds.

- Reply - Our narcotics control funds, which are voted by Congress are not unlimited. Our principal effort is aimed at eradicating the opium poppy in Mexico and the Golden Triangle. Since we must use that which is available

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to us most judiciously, you can, I'm sure, see our concern that it is used effectively. Once the cooperative programs we have engaged in with the Colombian Government are fully functioning, we will certainly be looking into ways of enhancing this effort.

3. Lopez may ask why the U.S. is not tougher on our own traffickers.

- Reply - The Federal government is committed to devoting itself at getting major traffickers and by building solid cases against them so that our judicial system can put them out of circulation. P.B. may wish to outline any legislation the Administration may be considering in this area.

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