Colombia

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 66666
NNO 66670

CONFIDENTIAL June 13, 1977

TO : The Secretary

FROM : S/NM - Mathea Falco

SUBJECT: Narcotics Control: Corruption and the Cocaine Traffic

ISSUE FOR DECISION

A decision has been made to withhold delivery of three helicopters promised Colombia under our narcotics program pending a meeting between Dr. Peter Bourne, the President's Special Assistant and Ms. Mathea Falco, Senior Adviser on Narcotics Matters, and the President of Colombia. The Colombian President has not yet agreed to see them. During your meeting in Grenada with Colombian Foreign Minister Lievano, S/NM would like you to urge him to contact his President to seek his agreement to meet with Bourne and Falco at the end of next week.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

We have been concerned that corruption of key Colombian civilian and police officials is seriously impeding the effectiveness of our bilateral program with Colombia to interdict the flow of cocaine into the United States. Our concern has increased with recent reports of opium cultivation in Colombia, fostered by Mexican heroin traffickers.

On May 9, Assistant Secretary Todman, in a meeting with Colombian President Lopez-Michelsen, referred to a planned visit by Mathea Falco. At that time President Lopez said that he would designate

someone to meet with her -- presumably the Minister of Justice. One unconfirmed report indicates that the Minister of Justice may be among those Colombian officials providing information to cocaine traffickers. Subsequently, the Embassy in Bogota, under instructions from the Department, submitted a note to the Foreign Ministry requesting President Lopez to meet with both Ms. Falco and Dr. Bourne. The Colombian Government has never replied to the Embassy's note. Twice during her meeting with President Lopez and Foreign Minister Lievano on June 10, Mrs. Carter reminded the President that Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco planned to visit Colombia and expressed the hope that he would receive them. He did not respond to this point, and on both occasions seemed to change the subject. The Bourne/Falco visit is scheduled for the latter part of the week of June 20-24.

RECOMMENDATION

That during your meeting with Foreign Minister Lievano at the OAS meeting in Grenada you urge him to contact President Lopez to seek his agreement to meet Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco.

Approve _____ Disapprove_____

Drafted: S/NM:MLCheshes:ag
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Concurrence: ARA:TATodman

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