S/NM

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file: Colombia

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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EXDIS

June 20, 1977

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: ARA - William H. Luers, Acting

SUBJECT: Meeting with the President Regarding Narcotics Assistance to Colombia

Our meeting with the President preceeds the trip of Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco to Colombia; they will meet with President Lopez on June 22. I expect that the President will decide upon the general approach Bourne and Falco should use in their meeting with Lopez.

The attached May 3 and June 1 memoranda to the Secretary (Tabs 1 and 2) describe the problems with regard to our narcotics assistance to Colombia. In brief, we are very concerned that the high degree of official corruption in Colombia makes our interdiction efforts ineffective. The delivery of three helicopters for narcotics interdiction, promised during the Ford Administration, has been held up pending the meeting with President Lopez.

The Secretary has agreed to the delay in the delivery of the helicopters and to raising the corruption issue.

Attached at Tab 3 is a memorandum of Mrs. Carter's conversation with Lopez on the issue. You will note that the US and Colombian perceptions of the issue are quite different.

I believe the issue to be decided is how to raise the corruption issue with Lopez so as to bring about more effective interdiction efforts. This is a delicate issue with the sensitive Colombian President. I have suggested to the Secretary that instead of Bourne and Falco naming names in the meeting with Lopez, they should advert to

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the corruption issue and offer to send down a lower ranking official for an exchange of intelligence information (in which case we would list names). In this way we would lessen the chances for a confrontation on the corruption issue but would still get an idea of Lopez' attitude.

Attachments:

1 - Memorandum to the Secretary - Colombian Cocaine Traffic

2 - Memorandum to the Secretary - Narcotics Control: Helicopters for Colombia

3 - Bogota 5430 - Mrs. Carter's Meeting with President Lopez

Drafted: ARA/AND/CODWCox:mms
6/20/77 ext. 23023

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

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May 3, 1977

TO: The Secretary

FROM: ARA - Terence A. Todman
S/NM - Mathea Falco

Colombian Cocaine Traffic

Issue for Decision

Recent intelligence indicates that corruption in the Colombian Government is a very serious obstacle to the narcotics interdiction effort in Colombia. Your approval of an action plan outlined below, which includes raising the issue with Colombian President Lopez, is requested.

Background/Analysis

Colombia is the major source of illicit cocaine entering the US; an estimated 40 tons per year flow here from that country. We have worked with the Colombian Government for five years to try to stem the drug traffic. (Marijuana is also smuggled from Colombia in great volumes.) We have stationed Drug Enforcement Agency personnel in Colombia and have provided grant narcotics assistance totalling eight million dollars through FY 1977 in training, advice, and equipment.

During his State Visit here in September 1975 President Lopez asked President Ford and Secretary Kissinger for more anti-narcotics assistance, specifically in the form of helicopters. The Colombians later asked for a much larger program than we could support, but, following protracted negotiations, we agreed with them in September 1976 on a program of expanded assistance, including three helicopters for a new Colombian Narcotics Air Wing. Funds were obligated and the helicopters were purchased, but

delivery to the Colombians has been held up for several months because of differences between the Colombians and us over who should pay liability insurance on the helicopters. We have decided that we will pay the insurance, so that is no longer the issue preventing delivery of the helicopters.

Recent intelligence reports from Bogota indicate that corruption within the Colombian Government is a major impediment to a successful narcotics interdiction program. The reports implicate the current Minister of Defense, possibly the Minister of Justice, and several lower-ranking officials, as well as the leading candidate for the Colombian presidency in next year's elections. The reports confirm longstanding impressions about corruption in Colombia's independent judiciary.

President Lopez has spoken publicly about the debilitating effects of narcotics trafficking and attendant corruption on his country. He has acknowledged that the proceeds from narcotics trafficking (estimated by our Embassy to amount to as much as $500 million a year) are contributing harmfully to inflation, his major domestic problem. He is probably aware that some of the officials of his government protect narcotics traffickers, but as a somewhat struggling "lame duck" he seems unable to take decisive action. A sensitive nationalist, he resents criticism or perceived pressure from the US about narcotics, since he believes that we as the major consuming nation create the market which is at the root of the problem.

We have decided to withhold delivery of the helicopters pending our discussions with President Lopez on the corruption issue. We have not informed Embassy Bogota or the Colombians of this decision.

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Both ARA and S/NM agree that Ambassador Todman and Ms. Falco should make separate visits to Bogota during which the narcotics issue will be raised with the Colombian President. We recommend the three phased approach outlined below:

Course of Action

1. Ambassador Todman will meet with President Lopez on May 9. During his conversation with the President, Ambassador Todman will raise the narcotics issue and indicate the high priority which both you and the President attach to this problem. On your behalf, the Ambassador will request that President Lopez receive Ms. Falco, your Senior Adviser on Narcotics Matters, on her forthcoming visit to Latin America in order to discuss this problem and the narcotics control program in depth. Should the helicopters be raised, Ambassador Todman will state that delivery is now being delayed pending Ms. Falco's review of the overall effectiveness of our program.

* 2. Ms. Falco will visit Bogota on or about May 19 and meet with President Lopez to present our concerns, stress the importance of this issue to the new Administration and the Congress, and explore what action can be initiated to improve the effectiveness of the program.

3. Our new Ambassador, due to arrive in June, will assess the response of the Colombian government to our expressions of concern and will follow the situation closely.

Recommendation

That you approve the course of action outlined above for dealing with the cocaine issue in Colombia.

Approve ✓ Disapprove _____

(signed by CV
at 8:30 a.m. 4/7/77 : WC)

after Tod return WC

Drafted: ARA/AND/C:DWCox:mms
5/3/77 ext. 23023

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

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June 1, 1977

cc: FJD

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TO : The Secretary

FROM: S/NM - Mathea Falco
ARA - William H. Luers, Acting

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Narcotics Control: Helicopters for Colombia

Issue for Decision

The delivery of three helicopters to Colombia under our narcotics control program is being held up pending the raising of the issue of serious corruption with the President of Colombia. ARA believes that steps should be taken to deliver the helicopters prior to Mrs. Carter's visit (June 9-10). S/NM disagrees.

Background/Analysis

On May 3 we sent you a memorandum outlining the background of the corruption issue which led to the decision to withhold the helicopters (Tab I). You approved the course of action outlined in that memorandum, which provided for Ambassador Todman to express the high priority you and the President attach to the drug abuse problem, and to request that President Lopez meet with Ms. Mathea Falco to discuss in depth the effectiveness of our drug control program.

Any questions regarding the helicopters were to be answered by informing the President that delivery is now being delayed pending Ms. Falco's review of the overall effectiveness of the program.

Although in his May 9 meeting with the Colombian President, Ambassador Todman raised the narcotics issue and referred to Ms. Falco's planned trip, he did not follow the course outlined above in regard to our specific concerns nor did he respond to President Lopez's questions regarding the helicopters, probably because of other problems in Colombia of which you are aware.

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The Deputy Secretary subsequently approved and revised the course of action (Tab 2), whereby the Embassy was instructed to seek an appointment in late June with President Lopez for Ms. Falco and for Dr. Peter Bourne, the Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy, and to advise the Colombian Government that delivery of the helicopters was being delayed pending their visit.

On May 23, Ambassador Todman discussed with you his views on the need for immediate steps to effect delivery of the helicopters (i.e. signing a contract, etc.) on the grounds that our relations with Colombia are presently so tenuous that failure to commit ourselves to deliver the helicopters prior to Mrs. Carter's visit to Bogota (June 9-10) could jeopardize the success of her visit. He believes that delivery of the helicopters should not be contingent upon our efforts to deal with the issue of corruption. ARA feels that if President Lopez perceives that the helicopters are being withheld as leverage on the corruption issue, the highly sensitive President could take action which would weaken rather than strengthen our narcotics control program. S/NM considers that the present situation in Colombia renders the program ineffective. Furthermore, ARA believes that other U.S. interests would suffer. At a minimum, ARA is not sanguine about the effectiveness of the helicopters as leverage. On the other hand, delivery of the helicopters would set the stage for a less confrontational approach on the corruption issue.

S/NM does not concur. Apart from the loss of leverage which would result from delivery of the helicopters, there are overriding policy considerations arguing against delivery. A decision to deliver the helicopters now without taking any action on confirmed reports of extensive involvement of Colombian officials in cocaine trafficking could jeopardize our entire international narcotics control program, particularly in light of Congressional interest in corruption in host governments.

Furthermore, the Foreign Assistance Act provides for the President to suspend aid whenever he determines that the government of a recipient country has failed to take adequate steps to control production and traffic

of narcotic drugs. While we do not envisage such drastic action, S/NM feels that delivery of the helicopters at this time without discussions with President Lopez would fly in the face of Congressional intent. Dr. Bourne strongly backs S/NM's position.

ARA proposes that Mrs. Carter be authorized to indicate that the helicopters will be delivered, that she allude to the corruption issue, and that she try to pave the way for the visit of Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco.

S/NM proposes that Mrs. Carter express our concern, urge President Lopez to receive Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco and if asked confirm that the helicopters are being delayed pending their meeting with him. S/NM's suggested talking points for Mrs. Carter are at Tab 3.

Recommendations

ARA recommends that steps be taken to deliver the helicopters to Colombia forthwith. S/NM believes we should maintain our previous position of withholding delivery pending the outcome of the Bourne-Falco visit.

Deliver helicopters _____

Withhold delivery ✓ JUN 3 1977

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Memorandum of May 3.
Tab 2 - State 107303.
Tab 3 - Talking Points for Mrs. Carter.

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Concurrence: ARA/AND:RBarnebey/DCox (draft)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BOGOTA 5438

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 5438 VICE 5430 AND SECTION INFOT

CARACAS FOR ASST SECY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CO, SNAR, ASEC, PARM
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ

FOLLOWING IS TELEGRAPHIC MEMO OF CONVERSATION WHICH TOOK PLACE AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FROM 11 AM TO 12:15 ON JUNE 1#. MEMO IS SUBJECT T
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APPROVAL BY MRS. CARTER'S PARTY. PARTICIPANTS WERE: PRESIDENT LOPEZ, FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO. MRS. CARTER, ASST SECY TODMAN, CHARGE BREALE
R,

AND MS HOYT AND MR. PASTOR.

1. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, PRES LOPEZ NOTED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM THE OPPOSITION IN BRAZIL DURING HER VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY. HE SAID HE HAD OFFERED BOTH BRANCHES OF THE COLOMBIA
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COMMUNIST PARTY THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE COMPLAINTS TO MRS. CARTER BUT THEY HAD DECLINED AND SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN DELUDED BY THE USG POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. CARTER COMMENTED THAT OF COURSE THE COLOMBIAN RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS VERY GOOD.

2. MRS. CARTER OUTLINED FOR LOPEZ THE BACKGROUND TO HER TRIP AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S OUTLOOK TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA. SHE UNDERLINED THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AIMED AT RESOLVING REGIONAL AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS.
SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ADOPTED A MORE OPEN APPROACH TO FOREIGN RELATIONS AND WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE BELIEF THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS TO REFLECT OUR NATIONAL VALUES. WE WERE SEEKING A WIDER PARTICIPATION IN WORLD POLITICAS AS WELL AS BROAD PROGRESS. ON A MULTILATERAL BAIS, IN HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO WANTS TO END THE SPECTRE OF WAR AND REDUCE THE WASTE OF RESOURCES IN ARMAMENTS. THE ADMINISTRATION WAS, IN PARTICULAR, SEEKING WIDER LATIN AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND THE NPT. PRESIDENT LOPEZ REMARKED THAT THE USSR HAD ASKED COLOMBIA TO TAKE THE LEAD AMONG OTHER LA NATIONS IN PRESSING BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA TO RATIFY BOTH THESE TREATIES.

3. TURNING TO SPECIFIC MEASURES THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALREADY TAKEN IN FURTHERING ITS LA POLICY OBJECTIVES, MRS CARTER CITED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATONS. SHE COMMENTED THAT SIGNIFICATN PROBLEMS STILL REMAINED BUT THAT THERE HAD ALSO BEEN GOOD PROGRESS AND THAT WE HOPED FOR AN AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THIS SUMMER.
SHE THANKED LOPEZ FOR THE HELP HE HAD ALREADY RENDERED IN FACILITATING AN AGREEMENT AND ASKED HIM TO IMPRESS UPON TORRIJOS THE NEED FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY BEFORE THE SUMMER WAS OVER. LOPEZ SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TORRIJOS RECENTLY BUT ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS "QUITE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THE TREATY NEGO-
TIATIONS REITERATING COMMENTS HE HAD MADE EARLIER TO AMBASSADORS

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BUNKER AND LINOWITZ, LOPEZ SAID THAT ONLY THE USG WAS IN A POSITON
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GUARANTEE THE SECURITY AND NETURALITY OF THE CANAL FOR THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD TORRIJOS THAT PANAMA SHOULD POSSESS THE AREA'S RESOURCES AND THE US SHOULD HOLD THE GUARANTEE.

4. REGARDING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MRS. CARTER REPORTED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BUT PROBLEMS REMAINED. SHE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACT THAT WE AT LEAST HAD OPENED A DIALOGUE WITH CASTRO. LOPEZ CHARACTERIZED CASTRO'S LATEST SPEECH ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AS "TRICKY".

5. RESUMING HER OUTLINE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN RELATIONS, MRS. CARTER SAID WE WERE ALSO SEEKING BETTER INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS SINCE THOSE EXISTING WERE FORMED AT THE TIME OF WORLD WAR II AND HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. SHE REITERATED THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH LA NATIONS IN DEVELOPING
OUR GLOBAL POLICIES AND IN ATTACKING WORLD PROBLEMS. LOPEZ COMMENTED THAT IF THERE IS ANY NATIONA WITH WHICH THE US HS NO PROBLEMS, IT IS COLOMBIA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BOGOTA 5438

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6. DEVELOPING FURTHER HER EARLIER COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MRS. CARTER SAID THAT ON HER TRIP SHE HAD ENCOUNTERED A FAR BETTER RESPONSE THAN SHE HAD EXPECTED TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY. SHE SENSED A NEW SPIRIT AND POPULAR INTEREST WITH REGARD TO SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID THAT IN VIEW OF COLOMBIA'S GOOD EXPERIENCE WE WOULD WELCOME LOPEZ' SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT THE CLIMATE FOR FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMED GOOD. HE COMMENTED THAT MOST GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY IN LATIN AMERICA, WERE SUFFERING FROM UNPOPULARITY BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND A NUMBER OF OTHER REASONS. IN THE DEMOCRACIES, PEOPLE WERE CALLING FOR STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WHEREAS IN THE MILITARY REGIMES, THE PEOPLE WANTED DEMOCRACY. IN THE LATTER NATIONS, THE REGIMES WERE BEING FORCED TO PROMISE ELECTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES IN THE NEXT YEARS AHEAD IN ORDER TO CALM THEIR PEOPLE. AND THIS CLIMATE, IN LOPEZ' VIEW, COULD BE PROPITIOUS FOR ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HARD, AND INADVISABLE, FOR THE US TO ACT AS A "PROTECTOR" OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LA PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WAS REALLY THE COLLECTIVE OBLIGATION OF THE OAS AND UN. HE ARGUED FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE OAS FRAMEWORK. LOPEZ ENVISIONED THE APPOINTMENT OF SOME DISTINGUISED STATESMAN TO FILL THIS ROLE AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT EVEN BE A CARIBBEAN, WHO WOULD HAVE SPECIAL CLAIMS TO OBJECTIVITY. HE ADDED THAT THIS OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT BE TERMED A "SECRETARY GENERAL" BECAUSE THIS TITLE SOUNDED FAR LESS IMPOSING IN SPANISH THAN IN ENGLISH. LOPEZ REFERRED TO RECENT MOVES BY SOME SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES TO FORM A BLOC COUNTERING US EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY ALLEGING THAT THEY CONSTITUTED "INTERVENTION." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, LOPEZ AND LIEVANO INDICATED THAT THESE MOVES WERE STILL UNDER WAY BUT THAT COLOMBIA HAD NOT BEEN WELCOME AS A PARTICIPANT. WHEN ASKED WHAT DEMOCRATIC NATIONS MIGHT DO TO COUNTER SUCH MOVES ON THE PART OF SOUTHERN CONE NATIONS, LOPEZ UNDERLINED THAT BOTH COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA HAD REFUSED TO JOIN IN AND THAT THE GOC, AS HE HAD MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, WAS ADVOCATING A COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN IMPARTIAL LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSIONER AS AN "OMBUDSMAN."

7. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS, MRS. CARTER SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG ABUSE AND ACCORDINGLY HAD ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE OFFICE ON THE PROBLEM HEADED BY DR. BOURNE, WHO WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE CARTERS. SHE REMINDED LOPEZ THAT DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO;

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON NARCOTICS, PLANNED TO VISIT COLOMBIA SHORTLY. MRS. CARTER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD MEET WITH BOURNE AND FALCO TO DISCUSS HOW OUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE. LOPEZ STATED THAT THERE WERE FEW THINGS THAT HAD DISAPPOINTED HIM AS MUCH AS HIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE USG WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS CONTROL. HE SAID THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER COLOMBIA WAS CORRUPTING THE US OR VICE VERSA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS AMERICAN MONEY, CHANNELS AND AIRCRAFT THAT WERE BEING USED IN

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NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING INVOLVING COLOMBIAN TERRITORY. HE REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATIONS NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECY KISSINGER WHO, HE SAID, PROMISED TO HELP COLOMBIA WITH THE EQUIPMENT IT NEEDED TO FIGHT THE TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS GEAR. MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE THEN AND WE WERE STILL DEBATING THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY JUST THREE HELICOPTERS.

8. MRS. CARTER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC MARKET FOR DRUGS BUT SHE STRESSED THAT IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFINE RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH A MATTER TO ONE COUNTRY. SHE WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS HAD HAD A CORRUPTING INFLUENCE ON THE GOC. BOTH LOPEZ AND LIEVANO SAID THEY ENTIRELY AGREED WITH MRS. CARTER BUT THEY STRESSED THAT THE GOC DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS AND THAT THE PROMISED USG HELP HAD NEVER COME. MRS. CARTER COMMENTED THAT THE SOURCES OF THIS TRAFFICKING PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND IN BOTH THE US AND COLOMBIA AND THAT WE NEEDED TO WORK TOGETHER. LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEGUN DOING SO THREE YEARS AGO. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS WHICH FAVORED TRAFFICKING FROM THE NORTHEAST PART OF COLOMBIA

HE ADDED THAT RECENTLY DISCOVERED PLANTATIONS FOR GROWING MARIJUANA USED ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FINANCED BY AMERICANS

MRS. CARTER REITERATED THAT CORRUPTION WAS LIMITING THE EFFECTIVENESS

OF COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT ACTION. LOPEZ AGAIN AGREED AND EMPHASIZED TH

GOC'S NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER EQUIPMENT. MRS. CARTER REPEATED THAT SHE HOPED PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD MEET WITH BOURNE AND FALCO WHEN THEY VISITED COLOMBIA. LOPEZ SAID THE GOC WANTED TO COOPERATE AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE US IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS.

9. MRS. CARTER NEXT REGISTERED THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BOGOTA 5438

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CARACAS FOR ASST. SECY TODMAN

AMERICAN PRISONERS, LIKE THELEN, WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN COLOMBIA FOR VERY LONG PERIODS WITHOUT BEING BROUGHT TO TRIAL. SHE RELATED THIS TO OUR CONCERSN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNDERLINED THE INTEREST IN SUCH CASES IN THE US. LOPEZ REPLIED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA ARE PROTECTED BY LAW, THAT THE LAWS NEED TO BE ENFORCED BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND THAT THE COLOMBIAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH CANNOT MANIPULATE THE JUDICIAL PROCESS BECAUSE THT WOULD IN FACT BE A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. CARTER REITERATED THE CONCERNS THAT WERE FELT IN THE US WITH REGARD TO PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN HELD SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL. LOPEZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE DELAY AND BACALOGS AND SAID THE COLOMBIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN TO TRY TO SPEED UP SOME 4000 PROTRACTED CASES WHICH WERE PENDING TRIAL. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT SUCH BACALOGS AND JUDICIAL BURDENS WERE A PROBLEM IN OTHER COUNTRIES, TOO, INCLUDING THE US.

10. REGARDING THE STARR KIDNAPPING CASE, MRS. CARTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOC'S HELP AND CONCERN AND VOICED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TOWARDS SECURING STARR'S SAFE RELEASE. LOPEZ SAID THE GUERRILLAS SEEMED TO BE HOLDING HIM IN THE REMOTE EL PATO AREA AND THAT IF GOC ARMED FORCES TRIED TO RESCUE HIM THERE IT WOULD ENDANGER HIS LIFE. HE STRESSED THAT IN SUCH CASES IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BE PATIENT, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT STARR'S MOTHER RECOGNIZED THE DANGERS OF TRYING TO FORCE THE ISSUE BY THE USE OF ARMED FORCE. MRS. CARTER UNDERLINED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE PEACE CORPS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS MOTHER HAD ALSO SERVED AS A PC VOLUNTEER.

11. MRS. CARTER ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY MESSAGES OR THROUGHTS WHICH PRESIDENT LOPEZ WISHED HER TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER. IN REPLY, LOPEZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF TRADE PREFERENCES AND TARIFFS, REITERATING THE LIEVANO PLAN FOR A LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE US WOULD FAVOR ITS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE NEIGHBORS IN THE HEMISPHERE. LOPEZ SAID THE GOC EITHER WANTED BETTER TREATMENT FROM THE US OR HELP IN SECURING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM ALL OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE HAD IN MIND THE FACT THAT COLOMBIA SUFFERED DISCRIMINATION IN TERMS OF MARKET AVAILABILITY FROM THE NATIONS IN THE LOME AGREEMENT AND THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH. MRS CARTER SAID THE US WANTED TO WORK WITH THE COLOMBIANS VIA THE MTN IN GENEVA TO REDUCE REGIONAL DISCRIMINATION. SHE THOUGHT THIS FAR BETTER THAN CREATING NEW REGIONAL TRADING SYSTEMS AS ENVISAGED IN THE LIEVANO PLAN). LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WERE IN THE MINORITY IN THE MTN AT GENEVA AND THAT IN PARTICULAR THERE WERE ONLY A HANDFUL OF LA NATIONS PARTICIPATING. HE WENT ON TO THANK THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS ENLIGHTENED ACTION ON SHOE IMPORTS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD TAKE SIMILAR POSITION IN REGARD TO EFFORTS TO CURTAIL COLOMBIAN CUTFLOWER IMPORTS. LOPEZ AND LIEVANO WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY DID NOT REGARD AN INCREASE IN COLOMBIAN EXPORTS TO THE US AS A FORM OF INCREASED ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE US. LOPEZ ALSO OBSERVED THAT IF THERE WAS A WORLD WIDE SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH FIRST REBOUNCED THE PREFERENCES THEY RECEIVED UNDER CLOSED, REGIONAL SYSTEMS, THERE WOULD

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BE A CONTINUING MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE LARTER, GLOBAL SYSTEM AND AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

12. LOPEZ ALSO WARNED THAT ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL/ ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT WOULD CONFRONT THE US WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WOULD RESULT FROM THE ANTICIPATED DROP IN COFFEE PRICES. HE SAID COLOMBIA HAD TAKEN MEASURES WHICH WOULD MITIGATE THE IMPACT HERE BUT THAT MOST OTHER COFFEE EXPORTING NATIONS HAD NOT DONESO AND HAD PEGGED THEIR INTERNAL PRICES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRICE. THEY THUS FACED SEVERE ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONSEQUENT POLITICAL DISRUPTION WHEN THE PRICE FALLS AND THE US WOULD HAVE TO COPE. ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WITH THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS THIS CAUSED.

13. IN CONCLUSION, MRS. CARTER STATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO COMPLETE THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY SEGMENT IN COLOMBIA BUT WAS WORIED BY LACK OF PROGRESS IN CURBING HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE. SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRES LOPEZ WOULD GIVE THIS PROBLEM HIS PERSONAL ATTENTIN. PRES LOPEZ GOOD NATUREDLY TOLD MRS. CARTER TO ADVISE HER HUSBAND NOT TO WASTE HIS TIME WORRYIN ABOUT THIS ISSUE. LOPEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN LISTENING TO TALK ABOUT COMPETING THE HIGHWAY FOR MANY YEARS BUT THAT MEANWHILE ONLY THE CONSTRUCTION COST HAS GONE UP. HE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS ALL A COMPLICATED PROBLEM WITH MANY CONFLICTING INTERESTS INVOLVED.
DREXLER

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