

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Draf¹er

Draft presidential
directive on the Panama
matter. I can fill you
in at your convenience.

Dan

~~TOP SECRET~~

Draft -- November 19, 1989

DIRECTING UNITED STATES MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN AND AROUND PANAMA

I have been informed that individuals now in Panama are planning to carry out in Panama terrorist or criminal acts against the United States which threaten American lives and property. I also have been informed that certain individuals, believed to have violated United States law, are or may be in Panama. In such circumstances it is my duty as Chief Executive to take care, among other things, that American lives, and the property and interests of the United States, are protected against violence and other interference, and that the laws of the United States are enforced.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, direct and authorize all United States military, intelligence and law enforcement personnel to use whatever force and to take whatever other actions may be necessary in and around Panama, including preemptive action, to prevent any such terrorist or criminal acts from being carried out. To the extent such actions include law enforcement activities, I authorize and direct such United States personnel to apprehend and arrest any individual who is believed to have violated the laws of the United States and to seize any relevant evidence. The Secretary of Defense shall direct all activities in and around Panama taken pursuant to this order and consult with appropriate officials of other departments or agencies as necessary.

This order shall supersede any conflicting Executive Branch regulation not required by law, and shall remain in effect until explicitly revoked by me.

 George Bush

Date:

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PER E.O. 12958

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