

REFERRED CUS;  
REQUEST DENIAL IN FULL B1/A5; B5

E306



THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

October 29, 1990

WASHINGTON, D.C.

90 NOV -6 P3:19

Dear Ambassador Levitsky:

I am writing to ask your assistance in addressing a most serious situation facing this nation. In addressing a reduction effort, as you are aware, improvements to our interdiction capabilities throughout the Caribbean has forced the aviation drug smuggling threat to shift their operations to Mexico and the southwest U.S. border.

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INTELLIGENCE  
NARCOTICS MATTERS

Responding to this threat, the Customs Service and the Department of Defense has increased detection and monitoring (D&M) operations along the Pacific Coast of Central and South America and noted tremendous aviation drug smuggling activity through that area into Mexico. The recent deployment of two Hughes Citation II sensor equipped aircraft to Mexico to assist in training and tactical operations have proven highly successful. Operations on October 14th alone resulted in the seizure by Mexico of 10 1/2 tons of cocaine, 2 aircraft and the crash of 2 other, and various vehicles and property. Though successful by any measure, these operations could be improved dramatically if U.S. detection aircraft could enter Mexican airspace to continue to provide radar data to the interceptor/tracker and apprehension assets. Recognizing the sensitivity of Mexico relative to sovereignty, it is doubtful that this permission will ever be forthcoming.

However, in addition to the hot pursuit issue, one of the most pressing logistical problems to the missions has been

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With your assistance, the U.S. Customs Service is currently

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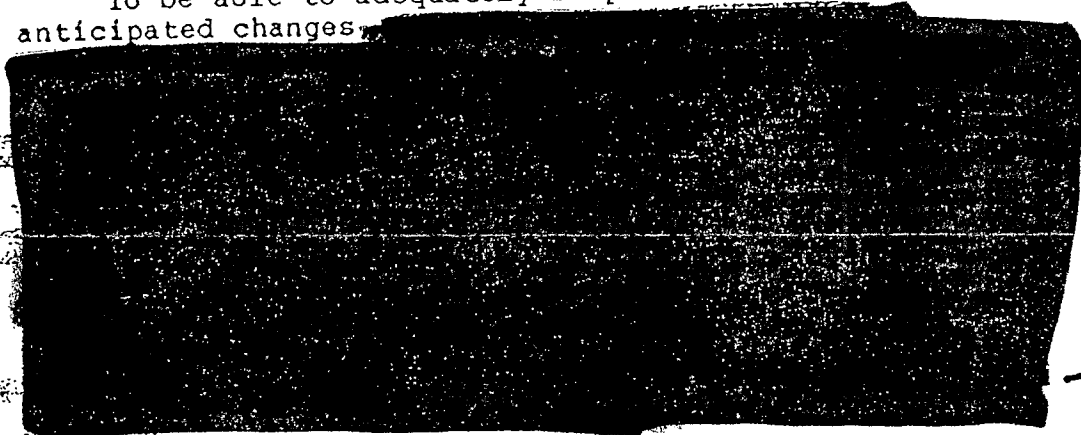
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when several successful Mexican seizures occurred and intelligence indicated the smuggling organization began to relocate operations to Guatemala.

To be able to adequately respond to these anticipated changes,



I very much appreciate the assistance the Department of State has provided in our ongoing efforts with the Government of Mexico and thank you in advance for your consideration of the above request which if implemented, will have a major impact of continuing to deny the air smuggler a safe place to operate.

Should you require any additional information, please contact me or Mr. Bob Asack at FTS 535-6368.

Sincerely,

*Carol Hallett*  
Carol Hallett  
Commissioner

The Honorable  
Melvin Levitsky  
Assistant Secretary for  
International Narcotics Matters  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520