

The NSC has waived their classification equity for information within this White House/NSC document.

Your agency has been determined to be the agency of primary interest.

Please review for your agency's equities and obtain any necessary concurrences.

*Mr. Pisto*

3897 *Mr. Colombia*  
*revised* *M. Pisto*

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 21, 1977

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for meeting with Rosalynn during her visit to Bogota. She has spoken with me about your discussions and we both found them useful and informative. We appreciate all your efforts to make her trip a success.

As you know, I have a deep personal concern, shared by the United States Congress and the American people, with the problems of drug abuse and illicit drug traffic. Like so many other problems that face us, drug abuse is global in nature and can be solved only through concerted international cooperation. Toward that end, I am making international drug abuse control a high priority of my Administration.

I know that Rosalynn conveyed to you my great interest in improving our joint efforts to interdict the drug traffic, particularly because of the corrosive influence that drug-related corruption is having on our societies. I would appreciate receiving any information which you have regarding the involvement of United States citizens in the drug traffic, and I would like to share with you some information which has come to my attention indicating that a number of high officials in the Colombian Government, and several important political figures, may be benefitting directly or indirectly from the illicit drug traffic. I would be glad to have a complete briefing provided for your information, if you wish, at your convenience.

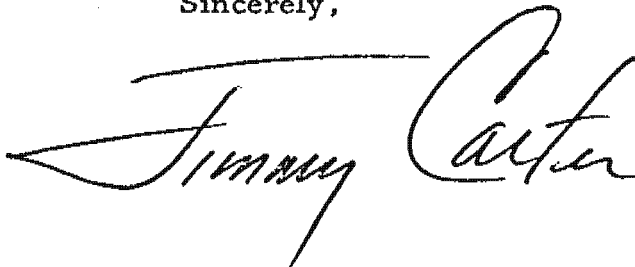
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I am concerned that future cooperation between our two countries will be jeopardized by this problem. Let me therefore propose that the two of us share our information and that we establish together a joint commission composed of representatives of the highest levels of our two governments, which will meet on a regular basis to maximize coordination between our two governments in dealing with the illicit drug traffic.

I hope that you will discuss with my personal representatives, Dr. Peter Bourne, my Special Assistant, and Ms. Mathea Falco, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for International Narcotics Matters, ways in which we can mutually strengthen our drug control efforts.

I am particularly troubled that Colombia, whose democratic tradition and leadership on human rights I have long admired, might suffer in the forum of international opinion if the drug traffic is allowed to expand unchecked. I value our personal correspondence and hope that we can use it to strengthen our efforts at defeating the danger that drug abuse presents to both our societies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

His Excellency  
Alfonso Lopez Michelsen  
President of the Republic of Colombia  
Bogota

13A

MEMORANDUM

3897

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**SECRET**

SECRET

June 21, 1977

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
SUBJECT: Letter from You to President Lopez Michelsen on Narcotics in Colombia

Attached at Tab A is the letter from you to President Lopez Michelsen of Colombia. Taking into account your discussion yesterday, Bob Pastor and Malthea Falco redrafted and cleared the letter with Peter Bourne, Warren Christopher and Bill Luers from the Latin American Bureau at State. However, I have strong reservations about the desirability of pointing so directly at a minister in President Lopez's Cabinet. Leaving aside the question of the reliability of our information, but bearing in mind Latin sensitivity to U. S. interference, I think it would be better merely to state the proposition that we have cause to believe that "a number of high officials in the Colombian Government may be benefitting" from the drug traffic, and go on to indicate that we are in a position to provide such information. Peter Bourne could then point the finger more directly, and hopefully with greater effect. As the letter at Tab A now stands, a very serious accusation is made explicitly but without any convincing proof, and Lopez is invited to ask for a "briefing" by our side.

Accordingly, I attach at Tab B an alternative draft which still forcefully makes the point and which opens the door to Peter's more direct briefing of the Colombian President.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab B. (p. 2 is the same for both A. + B.)  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

X P.S. Vance and Christopher concur with B.

*Signed  
6/21/77 -  
Orig. given  
to Peter Bourne*

SECRET

**SECRET**

3897 revised

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

BB

SECRET

June 20, 1977

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
FROM: ROBERT A. PASTOR *RAP*  
SUBJECT: Letter from the President to President Lopez  
Michelsen on Narcotics in Colombia

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President forwarding a letter to President Lopez Michelsen to be hand-carried by Dr. Peter Bourne. He is leaving Tuesday morning (June 21), and the President said he wanted to look at it as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign and forward the memorandum at Tab I.

SECRET

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## Suggested Letter

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for meeting with Rosalynn during her visit to Bogota. She has spoken with me about your discussions and we both found them useful and informative. We appreciate all your efforts to make her trip a success.

As you know, I have a long-standing personal interest in the problems of drug abuse and illicit drug traffic. I believe that drug abuse is a ~~major~~ <sup>human welfare</sup> threat ~~to mankind~~ that respects no national boundaries. ~~It is the cause of untold~~ <sup>The</sup> ~~human~~ <sup>(it causes affects)</sup> suffering ~~affecting~~ both the rich and the poor. Like so many other problems that face us, drug abuse is global in nature and can be solved only through concerted international cooperation. ~~Deep~~ Compassion for the victims of drug abuse must be combined with a vigorous attempt to curtail the world supply of illicit drugs. Toward that goal, I am making drug abuse control a high priority of my administration. My concerns are shared by the United States Congress and by the American people.

We appreciate the cooperation which exists between our two countries in working together to combat the spread

His Excellency  
 Alfonso Lopez Michelsen,  
 President of the Republic of Colombia,  
 Bogota.

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of drug abuse and to curtail the illicit drug traffic. Colombia plays a major role in any effort to control the flow of illicit cocaine. I know that Rosalynn conveyed to you my great concern for improving our joint efforts to interdict the cocaine traffic, particularly with regard to the corrosive influence that corruption can have on these efforts. I am pleased that you have agreed to meet with my personal representatives, Dr. Peter Bourne, my Special Assistant, and Ms. Mathea Falco, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for International Narcotics Matters, to discuss in greater depth ways in which we can strengthen the effectiveness of our cooperative program.

I am confident that by working together we can make considerable progress toward defeating the ~~growing~~ danger that drug abuse presents to both our societies.