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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1978

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MEMORANDUM TO ROBERT LIPSHUTZ

FROM: PETER BOURNE *P.B.*

SUBJECT: MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING
IN COLOMBIA.

On June 2, 1977 I sent to the President a memo dealing with Mrs. Carter's trip to Colombia, drug related corruption, and including also a list of high ranking individuals in Colombia whom we knew to be involved in drug trafficking. It included also the possible involvement of Presidential candidate Julio Cesar Turbay, and the delivery of helicopter's to Colombia. It was classified Secret.

The memo went through the routine paper system, but I believe was circulated only to the NSC. On their suggestion that they would incorporate it into the other briefing material being prepared for Mrs. Carter, Rick made the decision not to forward my memo to the President.

A few weeks ago a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee named Bill Richardson told people in the State Department that as background for a trip he was making to Colombia for the Committee he was given a copy of my memo by "a member of the Executive Office". Two weeks ago I found out that the memo is now in the hands of CBS - 60 Minutes, and they are planning a story on corruption in Colombia.

Subsequent to the memo being written and Mrs. Carter's trip I had two meetings with President Lopez-Michelsen, and at one of them provided him a list of names including all those that were in the memo. The release of the memo at this point will not therefore create any new problem with Colombia, except for the general embarrassment of having such a confidential document publicized. I also wonder about the legal issues involved when people without security clearances have in their position classified material.

In April I had raised with you the problem of xeroxed copies of classified memos circulated for comment in the White House ending up in the agencies. At that point you told me, that

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Memorandum to Robert Lipshutz
From: Peter Bourne

while it was unfortunate, you did not know what you could do about it. You may feel the same way about the present situation, but I felt you and perhaps Jody ought to be aware of it because I presume there are some legal issues involved, and it can potentially cause us considerable embarrassment. If you think it is appropriate I would be happy to discuss this issue with Attorney General Bell, although so far I have raised it with no one other than yourself.

PGB:ss

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