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We are aware of several levels of corruption in Colombia fed by tradition, socioeconomic pressures and the availability of large amounts of cash.

In particular, we trace corruption in three very general areas:

- 1) High level political;
- 2) All agencies of law enforcement at all levels;
- and 3) The judicial system.

High-Level Political: DEA information on high-level corruption in the Government of Colombia circles is limited (for the most part) to allegations made by informants. Most of these allegations converge on one figure in particular, former Colombian Ambassador to the United States, Julio Cesar TURBAY-Ayala, and what information is available documents only aspects of past activity (See Attachment #2).

Generally, DEA does not have access to this level of activity.

Law Enforcement Agencies: DEA's reporting on corruption in the Government of Colombia law enforcement agencies centers on this area. From both domestic and foreign sources, names and functional identities have been reported reflecting corrupt elements in the F2, the DAS, Colombian Customs Service and (although not strictly "enforcement agencies") the Colombian Army and Air Force.

For example, in ZE-72-0009 it is reported that after his arrest in 02/76 at his home in Cali, Benjamin HERRERA-Zuleta was released from custody in early 03/76, primarily due to the efforts of Captain LOZANO Chief of the F2 in Cali.

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In GFZB-75-8070 it is reported that information from a C.I. reveals that two Colombian Customs agents, Elizabeth HUERTAS and Guillermo RODRIGUEZ, are involved in extortion and possibly also narcotics trafficking with two other Customs agents, German VEGA-Arteaga and Jose MORA-Porras.

In GFZB-75-8070 it is reported that Bolivar ROJAS-Munoz, DAS detective, and Alvar~~o~~ PACHON ex-DAS detective, work together. ROJAS works for Orden Publico at DAS and supplies traffickers with information on investigations, official vehicles and tag numbers, and physical descriptions of other DAS detectives. PACHON, although out of DAS, still retains his badge and ID card and is involved in delivering contraband. Both operate in Bogota. Other individuals identified as corrupt by the C.I. were Saturnia SANCHEZ, assigned to Bogota airport. She gathers narcotics information from DAS files and sells it to Pedro BELTRAN, ex-DAS detective, who is closely affiliated with several noted traffickers.

In G1-76-0134 it is reported that the Colombian Naval Training Vessel GLORIA underwent a series of seizures of cocaine secreted aboard her between May and August of 1976 (about 48 kilos total were seized). Information later developed indicated that there were as many as 1,010 kilos of cocaine aboard and that despite seizures, sizeable quantities of cocaine were successfully off-loaded at Miami and New York City. A C.I. alleges that Colombian Naval officer, Alfredo GOMEZ, brother to the second-in-command of the GLORIA, was one of the principals in the smuggling scheme and that an unidentified "high official" aboard the vessel was advised, by intermediaries of the traffickers involved in the scheme, to ensure the safe off-loading of their cocaine or face retribution. One petty officer was arrested and court-martialed, but he was acquitted earlier this year.

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Attachment #2 documents the great range of DEA reporting on corruption in this sector.

Judicial Corruption: Although very much an integral part of narcotics law enforcement, it is generally conceded by knowledgeable U.S. sources that the Colombian judiciary is also the one of most corrupt and disruptive influences on enforcement efforts to address the problem of trafficking. DEA sources have little to nothing to report in terms of specific information on corrupt judicial figures in Colombia, but it should be noted that there are a significant number of major, high-level narcotics traffickers who have in the past and continue to function now with virtual impunity and immunity from any lasting or debilitating punishment. The case of Benjamin HERRERA-Zuleta, cited above, is an example of how a technicality in the Colombian law regarding habeas corpus was turned against the larger interests of society by a Colombian judge. His judgement, although suspect, was nonetheless upheld in appeals to the Colombian Supreme Court.

But the situation in the judiciary is apparently known to the Government of Colombia, for in recent press releases (See Attachment #3) public attention has been drawn to the problem.

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