

SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter Bourne

SUBJECT: Cocaine trafficking in Colombia.

Our present cocaine policy with regard to Latin America is a complete failure. We are spending more than \$7 million now in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to support law enforcement activities with little evidence that we are reducing the flow of cocaine to this country. We have a potential obligation for an additional \$45 million for crop substitution programs in Bolivia (a commitment made by Kissinger). Peru is pushing for similar amounts of money, and Colombia is complaining because we have failed to deliver 3 helicopters we promised. These countries want our money, but it is clear these programs especially the crop substitution programs will not work because there is no commitment at the top to deal with cocaine trafficking. Even with commitment I doubt the crop substitution programs will work because cocaine will grow easily almost anywhere in these countries.

Coca grows in Bolivia and Peru. It does not grow in Colombia, but that is where it is converted into cocaine and smuggled to the U.S., and therefore is where the immense amounts of money are made.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

In her meeting with President Lopez-Michelsen, Rosalynn should make the following points.

NLC Review Completed

(1) She should stress that you and she are seriously concerned about drug abuse. You both place high priority on developing effective efforts to reduce drug abuse, particularly with regard to interdicting the illicit traffic in heroin and cocaine. You have established a special office in the White House, to strengthen our own efforts to reduce drug abuse and to keep you personally informed of progress.

State Dept. review completed

DOJ Review Completed

(2) The illicit traffic in cocaine has serious consequences for the United States and for Colombia. You understand President Lopez-Michelsen has publicly warned about the debilitating effects of cocaine trafficking and attendant corruption on his country. (It is estimated that 40 tons of cocaine a year come into the U.S. from Colombia, bringing half a billion dollars back into the Colombian economy, equal to the

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amount they currently derive from coffee). However, more aggressive measures are required including vigorous moves against those in the government who are known to be involved in the trafficking. Particularly disturbing in the long run is the fact that Julio Cesar Turbay, the most likely next President is known to be involved. (See the attached list)

(3) There is a strong need for a closer collaborative relationship with the United States. For this reason Peter Bourne and Ms. Mathea Falco, Senior Adviser on Narcotic Matters to the Secretary of State will follow up her (Rosalynn's) visit at the end of June to review with him collaboration in the drug area.

(4) If President Lopez-Michelsen brings up the issue of the helicopters he is expecting under the narcotics program, she should inform him that delivery is being delayed pending the visit of Dr. Bourne and Ms. Falco, unless a commitment for delivery is tied to highly specific commitments on his part. Some people at the State Department are willing to just give them the helicopters to avoid conflict. I oppose this and feel they are one of the only points of leverage we have. There is also some question at present as to whether the helicopters might not be used to transport cocaine rather than interdicting it,

I am currently chairing a group with senior representatives from State, Treasury, HEW, and Justice to reexamine our cocaine policy, especially the ineffectiveness of our international efforts and I anticipate that within 6 weeks we will have a more rational and carefully planned policy with greater likelihood of success. However, commitment by Latin American leaders has to be a key to our success.

PGB:ss

Attachment

SECRET/EXDIS

June 1, 1977

COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY PROFITING

25X1

FROM COCAINE TRAFFIC

Political Figures:



✓ Leading Liberal Party Presidential Candidate (1978 election),
Julio Cesar Turbay. Cocaine traffic involvement. (Source -
three DEA sources)

25X1

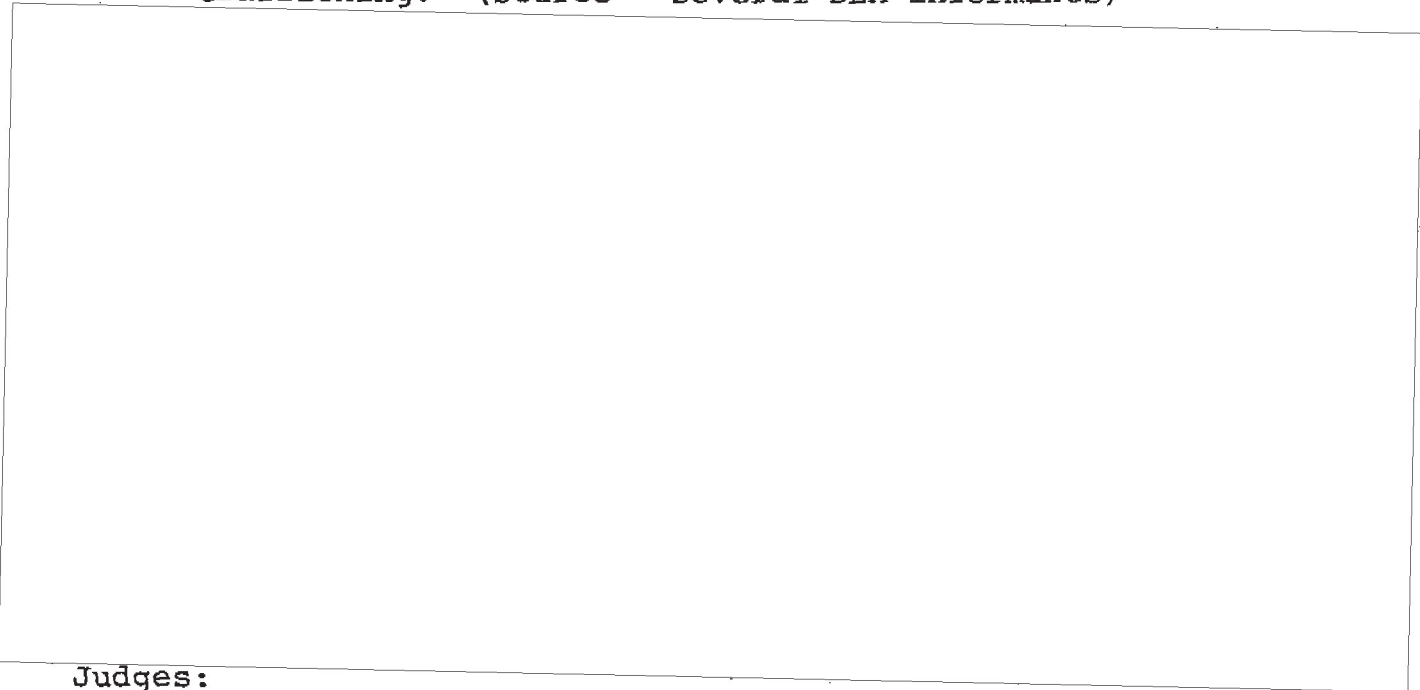


Police Officials:

National Police Commanding Officer, Magdalena Department, Colonel
Salazar. Owns marihuana plantation and actively traffics
narcotics. (Documented in DEA files)

F-2 (National Police) Commander at Cali, Captain Harold Lozano
Jaramello. Operates cocaine laboratory and involved in
trafficking. (Source - several DEA informants)

25X1



Judges:

Many judges have been either corrupted or intimidated into releasing traffickers.

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