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Approved For Release 2004/12/01 : CIA-RDP80M00165A000700110045-7

DDI # 2324-77

10 JUN 1977

Executive Registry
77-2803/L

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Sayre Stevens 13 JUN 1977
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Query Regarding Colombian Use of US-Supplied Helicopters to Smuggle Drugs

? D-7

1. Action Requested: None. This is in response to your recent query and intended only for your information. As of this date, we have no intelligence information suggesting that Colombian helicopters are, or ever have been, involved in narcotics smuggling.

2. Background: The only helicopters currently in the Colombian inventory belong to the Colombian Air Force. There are a total of 72, all of US manufacture, and all were purchased by the Colombian Government--either outright or under the terms of the Foreign Military Sales Act.

- a. The Colombian Government requested three additional helicopters last year, under the terms of the Narcotics Assistance Act, to be used in narcotics control activities. Negotiations for these aircraft have not yet been completed. Presumably this subject will be discussed when Ms. Falco, S/NM, and Dr. Bourne, the President's Special Adviser on Health Matters, meet with President Lopez in Bogota later this month.
- b. A survey by US AID Mission advisers last April produced no evidence of any misuse by Colombia of AID funds and commodities.

3. This information has been coordinated with DDO/PCS/NAR.

ILLEGIB

[Redacted]

Sayre Stevens

[Redacted signature block with stamp and handwritten 'D-7']

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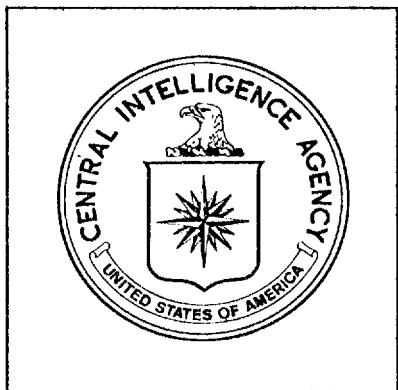
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International Narcotics

STAFF NOTES

Secret 43

PS SNIN 77-012
8 June 1977

COLOMBIA: Discovery of Large Marijuana Fields

Reports of the "world's largest" marijuana field in the Guajira region of northeast Colombia have focused official and public attention on the extent and sophistication of cannabis production in the country. Originally reported as 1,500 hectares, the marijuana fields, which are interspersed among other agricultural crops, are now estimated at 200-250 hectares.

Even with this lower estimate, the sector under cultivation is still extensive. Moreover, the report that some 300 farm workers were recruited from neighboring areas to tend the fields, coupled with the discovery of irrigation facilities and modern agricultural implements, is an indication of the commercial and highly professional aspect of the marijuana business in Colombia.

Colombia has long been a principal source of marijuana supply for the US market. Most of it is grown in the rugged Sierra Nevada Mountains in the departments of Magdalena and Cesar. The Guajira, perhaps more infamous as a center for contraband smuggling, also has a reputation for marijuana cultivation.

There are no estimates on the amount of marijuana grown in Colombia, but US Drug Enforcement Administration officials believe that 50 to 80-ton shipments of the drug are routine and that smaller 1 to 2-ton shipments may leave the country several times a day. Most of the marijuana is stored clandestinely on commercial or private vessels which depart from Riohacha, Santa Marta, Barranquilla, Cartagena, or other Caribbean seaport cities. In addition, innumerable secret runways facilitate air smuggling. Virtually all of the Colombian marijuana is destined for the US market, entering through the east coast, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico.

The latest discovery in the Guajira generated a spate of news articles in Colombia calling for tighter narcotics controls. According to the executive secretary

PS SNIN 77-012
8 June 1977

3 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
FROM : Executive Assistant to the DCI

The President asked the Director on 3 June
if the Columbians were using the helicopters
we gave them to run drugs?



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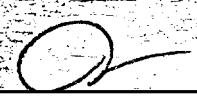
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	D/DCI/IC		X		
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI	X			
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	D/DCI/NI		X		
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	A/DCI/PA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20	L. Lapham		X		
21	ES		X		
22					
		SUSPENSE	10 June 1977		
			Date		

Remarks:

Please coordinate response with DDO.



D/ Executive Secretary
6 June 77

Date

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REGISTRY FILE