

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05899 01 OF 02 242119Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 /044 W  
-----080338 242142Z /73

P 242004Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2269

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 5899

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: BOURNE-FALCO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ

REF: BOGOTA 5809

1. IN ACCORDANCE FINAL PARA REFTTEL, FOLLOWING IS DETAILED MEMORANDUM OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND DR. PETER BOURNE AND MS. MATHEA FALCO, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE PREIDENTIAL PALACE IN BOGOTA ON JUNE 22. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING WERE THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THE CHARGE AND THE NARCOR. THIS MEMORANDUM HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO.

2. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, DR. BOURNE HANDED PRESIDENT LOPEZ A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH LOPEZ IMMEDIATELY OPENED AND READ. HE THEN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SAID THE IDEAS IN THE LETTER WERE CONSTRUCTIVE. HOWEVER, THERE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD, BUT THEY HAD COME TO NOTHING. HE HAD WANTED A PROGRAM SMILAR TO THE ONE IN MEXICO, BUT THAT HAD BEEN SCALED DOWN TO ONLY THREE HELICOPTERS AND OBSTACLES RAISED BY BOTH THE COLOMBIAN AND US SIDES CONTINUED TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR DELIVERY. HE CITED THE PROBLEM OF GOC QUOTE RED TAPE UNQUOTE IN COMBATTING NARCOTICS, AND NOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IF COLOMBIA WERE A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP,

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05899 01 OF 02 242119Z

ACTION COULD BE FASTER, BUT COLOMBIA CANNOT MOVE AS EASILY AS A COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS NO RULE OF LAW.

3. BOURNE RESPONDED THAT THE US VIEWS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AS A SHARED PROBLEM AND PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED THE GOC TO KNOW THE HIGH PRIORITY HE PLACES ON THIS ISSUE. TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS, THE US PROPOSES

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS SUCH AS IN THE DELAY WITH THE HELICOPTERS. THE COMMISSION COULD DISCUSS OTHER STEPS TO BE TAKEN, SUCH AS THE SPRAYING OF MARIJUANA FIELDS IN COLOMBIA.

4. LOPEZ ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL THE US PROPOSED THE COMMISSION BE, AND WHEN BOURNE REPLIED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, LOPEZ SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, WHO WAS FLYING TO NEW YORK, TO CONSULT ON THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON. BOURNE RESPONDED THAT IF ANY DIFFICULTIES AROSE IN THIS CONNECTION, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM.

5. MS. FALCO STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN TRAFFICKING IN COLOMBIA AND HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHARE INFORMATION ON THEM WITH THE GOC. A HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION COULD HELP IN THIS PROCESS.

6. DR. BOURNE THEN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE GOC IN TRAFFICKING. HE SAID PRESIDENT CARTER HAS A LIST OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS AND HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE A PRIVATE BRIEFING FOR LOPEZ ALONE. LOPEZ EMPHATICALLY INTERJECTED, "GOOD\*" BOURNE CONTINUED THAT THE INFORMATION IS SENSITIVE AND ITS QUALITY VARIES. SO THAT LOPEZ HIMSELF COULD JUDGE THE EVIDENCE A  
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SECRET

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05899 01 OF 02 242119Z

BRIEFING BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON COULD BE SET UP.

7. LOPEZ SAID COLOMBIAN INTELLIGENCE INDICATES NOT VERY HIGH LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING. HOWEVER, IN SANTA MARTA, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS INVOLVED. BOURNE REPLIED THAT THE US WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND THROUGH THE PROPOSED COMMISSION THERE COULD ALSO BE ASSISTANCE IN UPGRADING THE COLOMBIAN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT.

8. LOPEZ THEN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE QUOTE BIG MONEY UNQUOTE FROM THE US WHICH FINANCES THE TRAFFICKING. PREVIOUSLY THE US INTERESTS HAD FINANCED THE OPERATIONS OF SMALL COLOMBIAN COFFEE GROWERS. NOW THE SAME SYSTEM IS BEING USED TO FINANCE MARIJUANA PRODUCTION. THIS NET HAS TO BE CUT. DR. BOURNE SAID THE US WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DO ITS SHARE TO ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM FROM OUR SIDE, BUT THE PEOPLE ARE HARD TO CATCH. THE SUCCESS OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM IN MEXICO IS LEADING TO ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH POPPY CULTIVATION IN COLOMBIA. THE US, AWARE OF THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT OF TRAFFICKING ON A COUNTRY SUCH AS COLOMBIA, WOULD DO ALL IT CAN TO PREVENT THIS. THE PROGRAM

IS SHOWING SUCCESS IN MEXICO AND IS WORKING IN THAILAND AND BURMA. THE SITUATIONS IN BURMA AND COLOMBIA ARE NOT TOO DIFFERENT, WITH AREAS OF THE COUNTRIES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENTS. LOPEZ INTERJECTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT IN THAT BURMA IS NOT SO CLOSE TO THE US.

9. BOURNE NOTED THAT TRAFFICKERS IN THE US ARE ESCAPING PUNISHMENT AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PLANS TO INTRODUCE MEASURES TO TIGHTEN UP THE LAW. LOPEZ SAID THAT US PRISONERS IN COLOMBIA WERE EXPENSIVE FOR THE GOC AND WONDERED IF US CITIZENS COMMITTING OFFENSES IN COLOMBIA COULD BE SENT HOME TO BE TRIED. ON THE OTHER HAND, SERIOUS COLOMBIAN VIOLATORS WERE BEING EXPELLED FROM THE US WITHOUT TRIAL. MUTUAL EXPULSION WITHOUT PROSECUTION WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. AT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 05899 01 OF 02 242119Z

THIS POINT LOPEZ CONSULTED WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND THEN NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEND AN ACCUSED PERSON OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITHOUT TRIAL UNLESS THERE IS A TREATY COVERING IT. HE ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO GET SUCH A TREATY. BOURNE RESPONDED THAT IT MIGHT NOT TAKE A TREATY.

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05899 02 OF 02 242128Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 /044 W  
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P 242004Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2270

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 5899

HE CITED CAPABILITY OF US COURTS TO INDICT UNDER CONSPIRACY LEGISLATION SOMEONE WHO HAD NEVER SET FOOT IN THE US AND THAT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT TO FREEZE TRAFFICKING-ASSOCIATED BANK ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY LETTER.

10. FALCO POINTED OUT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN THESE

CASES AND THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THE LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THEN SEND THE INFORMATION BACK THROUGH THE CHARGE. IF A TREATY IS REQUIRED, IT WOULD TAKE TIME. LOPEZ COMMENTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS QUITE COMPLICATED BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDED THAT A COLOMBIAN CITIZEN COULD NOT BE EXTRADITED TO THE US UNLESS A DEFINITE LINK WITH A CRIME WERE PROVEN.

11. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION, LOPEZ SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT HE WOULD EVEN CONSIDER APPOINTING A LEGAL ATTACHE ON DRUGS. FALCO SAID THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND HER OFFICE COULD WORK WITH THE LEGAL ATTACHE ON A DAILY BASIS. LOPEZ CONTINUED THAT FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION THEN WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. IN BOGOTA THE NARCOTICS SECTION OF THE US EMBASSY COULD HANDLE CONTACTS WITH THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES.

12. BOURNE CITED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO SEE THESE MATTERS WORKED OUT SUCCESSFULLY. IN THREE TO SIX MONTHS  
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05899 02 OF 02 242128Z

CARTER WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IF ANYTHING WAS NOT WORKING OUT. IF THERE WERE ANY PROBLEMS OR ANY FAILURES TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS HE WANTED TO KNOW. LOPEZ STATED THAT THE SAME APPLIED TO HIMSELF. HE WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND CRITICISMS.

13. FALCO SAID HER OFFICE WOULD WORK WITH THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, AND BOURNE ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO COULD CONSULT WITH SECRETARY VANCE TO DECIDE THE OTHER COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS. LEADERSHIP AT HIGH LEVELS COULD WORK OUT THE PROBLEMS.

14. LOPEZ THEN SPOKE OF A CONCRETE PROBLEM, THE HELICOPTERS. BOURNE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RESERVED TO HIMSELF THE FINAL DECISION ON THE HELICOPTERS BUT THAT DECISION COULD BE EXPECTED AS SOON AS BOURNE AND FALCO MADE THEIR REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. SPEAKING OF THE PROBLEMS DELAYNG DELIVERY OF THE HELICOPTERS, FALCO SAID THE US COULD PAY THE LIABILITY INSURANCE. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE STATED THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ HAD SAID US COULD NOT PAY THE INSURANCE COSTS. IT WAS AN EXCEPTION TO US PRACTICES. FALCO SAID THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO HER FOR REVIEW. IT WAS AN EXCEPTION, BUT SHE FOUND NO REASON THAT EXCEPTIONS COULD NOT BE MADE. THE PROBLEM COULD BE WORKED OUT.

15. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT A FURTHER PROBLEM HAD BEEN WHETHER THE US CAN BE A PARTY TO THE GOC-HELICOL CONTRACT.

FALCO SAID THAT GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER PROBLEMS, SHE  
COULD MAKE THESE SMALL ONES GO AWAY QUICKLY. LOPEZ SAID HE  
HAD ANNOUNCED IN 1975 THAT COLOMBIA WOULD GET US ASSISTANCE  
IN COMBATTING DRUG TRAFFICKING, BUT HE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO  
MAKE IT MATERIALIZE YET. FALCO SAID THAT FOLLOWING PRESIDENT  
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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05899 02 OF 02 242128Z

CARTER'S DECISION, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SIGN THE HELICOPTER  
CONTRACTS NEXT WEEK. LOPEZ SAID THE THING IS TO GET STARTED.  
HE WORRIES THAT THE QUOTE MAFIAS UNQUOTE THINK THEY ARE  
FIGHTING THE GOC ALONE. HE NOTED THAT COCAINE ABUSE IS NO  
PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA AND THAT MARIJUANA HAS BEEN SMOKED HERE  
FOR CENTURIES. ASKED BY FALCO IF THERE WERE A PROBLEM WITH  
OTHER DRUGS, LOPEZ INDICATED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH SUCH  
THINGS AS AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES.

16. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH BOURNE EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE  
OF THE US SIDE FOR THE MEETING, WHILE LOPEZ SAID HE HOPED  
THINGS WOULD GET STARTED SOON; HE WOULD TALK WITH THE FOREIGN  
MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

17. AS THE PARTY WALKED TOWARD THE DOOR, LOPEZ ASKED  
SPECIFICALLY HOW THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE BRIEFING FOR HIM  
ON NARCOTICS-RELATED CORRUPTION IN THE GOC WOULD BE MADE.  
BOURNE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES  
TO BOGOTA. THE EXACT APPOINTMENT COULD BE MADE THROUGH THE  
CHARGE.  
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