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Department of State

SECRET

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FU RDS-3 3/19/95 LAWRENCE LOREN E) OR-M
TAGS: PPDC, SNAR, JM, US
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA TO THE PRESIDENT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH A CRITICAL AND TIMELY DRUG ERADICATION PROGRAM. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/CAR. ADDITIONAL COMMENT WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED THAT THIS MESSAGE BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST SENSITIVITY AS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF U.S. JAMAICAN COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR GENERATING A POLITICAL HURRICAN IN JAMAICA.

3. BEGIN TEXT 19 MARCH 1981 MY DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN, WHEN WE MET IN WASHINGTON EARLIER IN THE YEAR THERE WAS NO TIME TO RAISE A MATTER THAT HAS BEEN VERY MUCH ON MY MIND, THE DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL MARKET IN DRUGS, PARTICULARLY MARIJUANA BEING GROWN IN JAMAICA AND BEING IMPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES. AT THE TIME WE MET, I HAD ALSO NOT HAD SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO THINK THE ISSUE THROUGH. I HAVE JUST HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE, DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOSEPH LINNEMANN WHO ARE VISITING JAMAICA. I TOLD THEM OF THE CONCERNED FOR THE CORRUPTION THAT ILLEGAL DRUG SMUGGLING HAS GENERATED IN MY COUNTRY, THE ATTENDANT ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS, THE ASSOCIATION OF DRUG SMUGGLERS WITH INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL TERRORIST AND RADICAL GROUPS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUE TO DRUG ACTIVITIES THREATS TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF JAMAICA AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MY GOVERNMENT AND THREATS TO THE SAFETY OF LEGITIMATE AIR TRANSPORT BY UNDETECTED VIOLATIONS OF AIR TRAFFIC ROUTES. ANOTHER MATTER OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO ME AND MY GOVERNMENT IS THE TIE-IN BETWEEN THE COPTIC CHURCH GROUPS HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR GROWING ECONOMIC POWER AND LAND OWNERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY. THE MATTER THEREFORE REQUIRES URGENT AND IMMEDIATE ACTION.

I MUST AT THE SAME TIME LET YOU KNOW THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN LEFT TO DRIFT FOR SO LONG HERE THAT I AM NOW CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH IT.

ONE OF THE MAIN INHIBITING FACTORS IS THE STATE OF OUR SECURITY FORCES WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY LIMITED BY THE FAILURE OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEEDED TO DO THE JOB. THANKS TO YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST AND THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES THE UNITED KINGDOM AND VENEZUELA, WE ARE NOW BEGINNING

TO MAKE UP THE LACK OF EQUIPMENT. BUT THERE IS STILL SEVERE LIMITATIONS RESULTING FROM EQUIPMENT DEFICIENCIES WHICH PREJUDICE OUR CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH DRUG TRAFFIC AND ITS LINKAGES TO SUBVERSION.

MR. BENSINGER AND MR. LINNEMANN, I UNDERSTAND, WILL BE TAKING THIS UP WHEN THEY RETURN TO WASHINGTON. WHAT I HAVE ASKED THEM TO DO IS TO SEE HOW THEY MIGHT HELP US WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF TRAINED AND TRUSTWORTHY EXPERTS FROM YOUR DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AS WELL AS WITH VITAL EQUIPMENT WHICH WE WOULD REQUIRE FOR EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING. I HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN A CROP SUBSTITUTIONS PROGRAM WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY EFFORT ON OUR PART.

FOR MY PART, I HAVE INITIATED A STUDY OF OUR LAWS TO INCREASE OUR CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE ASSETS, VESSELS AND INCOMES OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC, AND TO INCREASE SEVERELY BAIL REQUIREMENTS IN SUCH CASES. MR BENSINGER AND MR LINNEMANN HAVE EXPLAINED TO ME YOUR SUCCESS WITH SUCH MEASURES AND I BELIEVED WITH SUTIABLE ADAPTATION, THEY MAY BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL HERE.

IT IS VITALLY ESSENTIAL THAT DURING THE PREPARATORY AND OPERATIONAL PERIOD, OUR PLANS BE TREATED WITH THE GREATEST SENSITIVITY AND COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY AND ESPECIALLY THAT WE AVOID PREMATURE PUBLICITY, EITHER IN THE UNITED STATES OR IN JAMAICA.

I TRUST THAT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WILL ENABLE US TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

SIGNED WITH KINDEST WISHES
EDWARD SEAGA. END TEXT.
LAWRENCE

DOJ Review Completed.

State Dept. review completed

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