



Directorate of
Intelligence

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Narcotics Review



February 1986

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


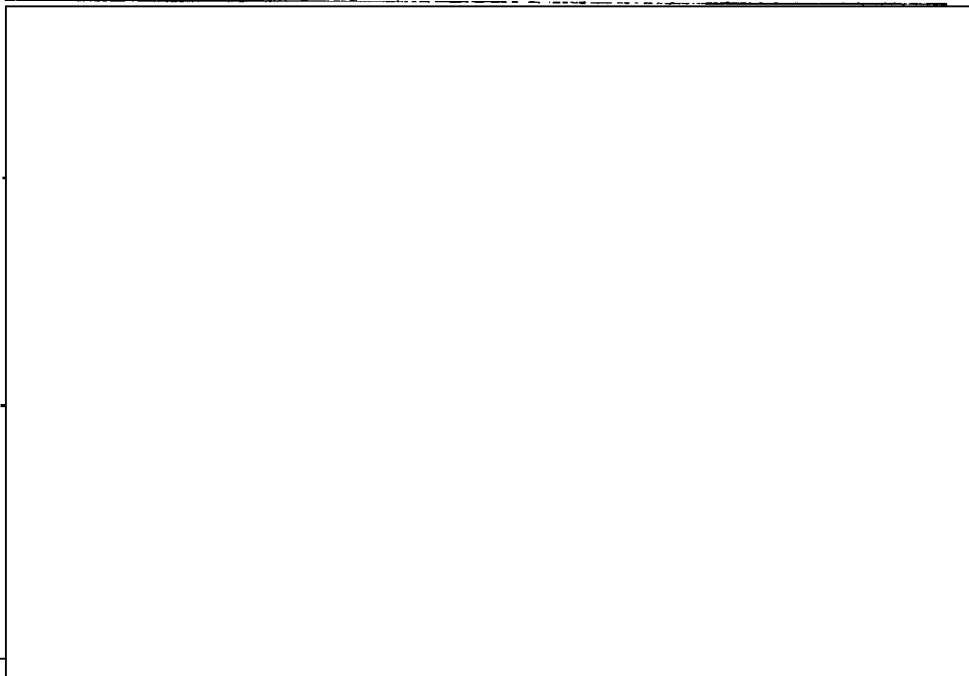
Narcotics Review 

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Colombia: San Andres Island Ripe for Expanded Drug Activity 


San Andres Island has the potential to play a more vital role in the Caribbean drug trade. The island's location and the increasing amount of maritime container cargo flowing through the port make San Andres an attractive alternative to traditional staging areas. 



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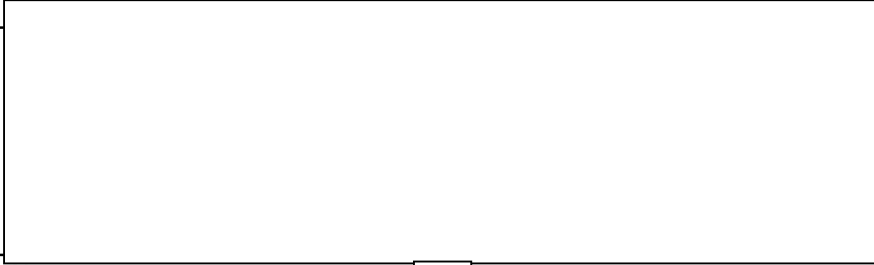
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23 **Worldwide Narcotics Highlights**



A summary of key developments from 1 December 1985 to 1 February 1986.



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Worldwide Narcotics Highlights

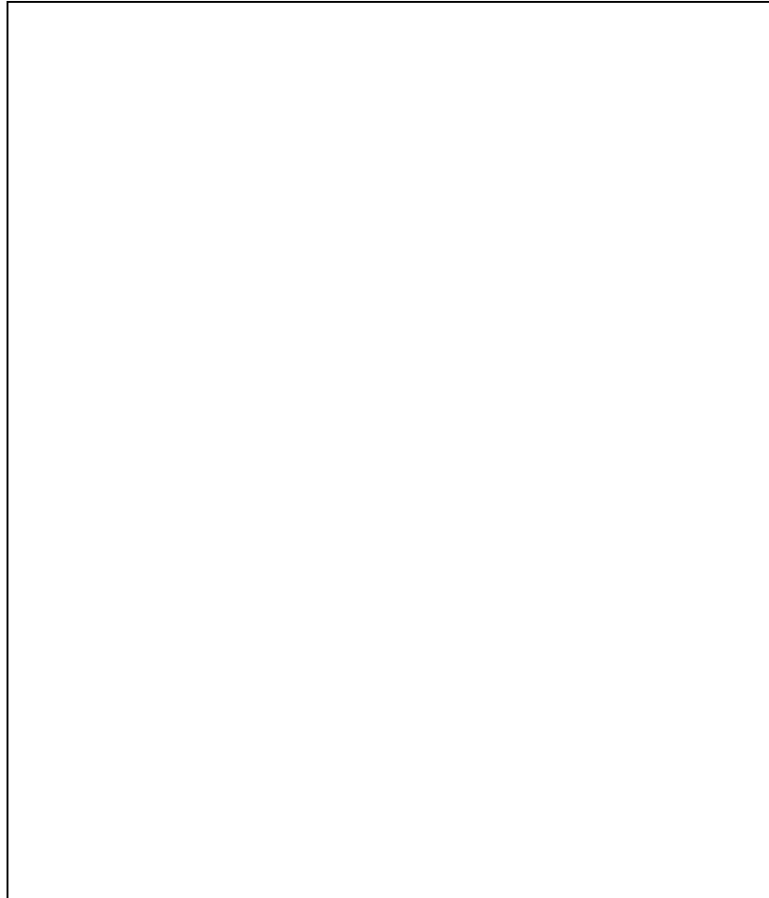
South America

In December, *Colombian* President Betancur approved plans to spray 1,000 hectares of coca with the herbicide triclopyr. The decision comes after over a year of testing to determine the most effective chemicals and aerial application techniques. Spraying is to begin as soon as the chemicals arrive from the United States. If the herbicide proves effective against the hardy coca plant, the operation will mark a major advance toward eradicating Colombia's 13,000 hectares of coca. In recent years, Colombian authorities have been destroying coca by hand, an arduous and hazardous task for eradication teams who risk confrontations with guerrilla groups that are active throughout much of Colombia's coca-growing areas. reports that some 2,000 hectares were destroyed by hand in 1985 and predicts that a successful aerial spray operation could destroy 10,000 hectares in 1986. The destruction of Colombia's coca crop, however, will have little immediate effect on the US cocaine market. much of Colombia's coca is marketed locally as basuco—a cigarette faced with coca base—or low-quality cocaine. Colombia's international drug traffickers prefer to use better quality Bolivian or Peruvian coca in the cocaine they smuggle to the United States. Successful spraying in Colombia, however, could become an incentive for Bolivia and Peru to consider similar operations against their much larger coca crops.

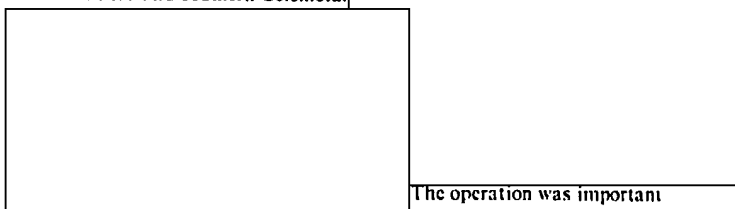
In a case that will measure *Colombia's* willingness to crack down on drug-related corruption in the judiciary, Judge Rafael Ortega Castro has been indicted for "betrayal of trust" in his investigation of the March 1984 Tranquilandia raid. Tranquilandia is the name given to the laboratory complex in the Llanos where several tons of cocaine were confiscated by the national police. Despite this record drug seizure, no major traffickers were arrested. A pilot has told officials that the traffickers were forewarned of the raid and managed to escape the night before it occurred. About 100 laboratory guards and workers were arrested, but later released under orders from Judge Ortega. Because of these irregularities, the Supreme Tribunal in Florencia suspended Ortega in September and ordered the re-arrest of the 100 defendants—none of whom has been apprehended. judicial authorities want the maximum penalty imposed on Ortega so that his case will serve as a deterrent to other potentially corrupt judges.



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Peruvian authorities maintained pressure on drug traffickers during November and December with [redacted] an operation to disrupt the flow of coca base and paste from the Upper Huallaga Valley to cocaine-conversion laboratories in northern Peru and southern Colombia.



The operation was important



because it struck a key trafficking center and demonstrated that police and military units could work together, but it probably set back trafficking only temporarily.

[Redacted]

The 6 December order by the Government of *Peru* lifting the State of Emergency in the Upper Huallaga Valley will have mixed effects on narcotics control in this important coca-producing area. Imposed in the summer of 1984 to quell growing violence attributed to Sendero Luminoso terrorists, the State of Emergency suspended nearly all constitutional guarantees and conferred full political control of the area on the armed forces.

[Redacted]

Lifting the State of Emergency has returned narcotics control to civilian authorities, enabling the police to plan and execute their own coca eradication and interdiction operations. This should result in more consistent drug enforcement efforts in the valley. It has already given rise, however, to increased drug-related violence that may stymie these operations.

[Redacted]

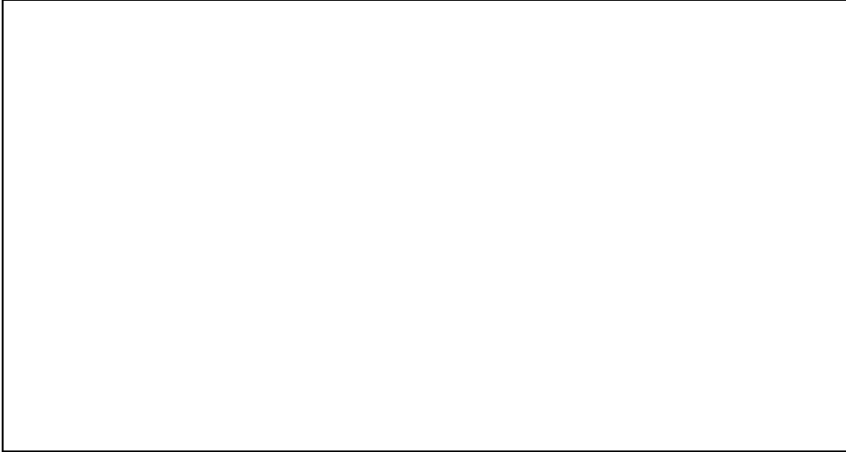
The military remains stationed in the Upper Huallaga to support antiterrorism operations in neighboring areas and could be used to restore order if the violence becomes too much for the police to handle.

[Redacted]

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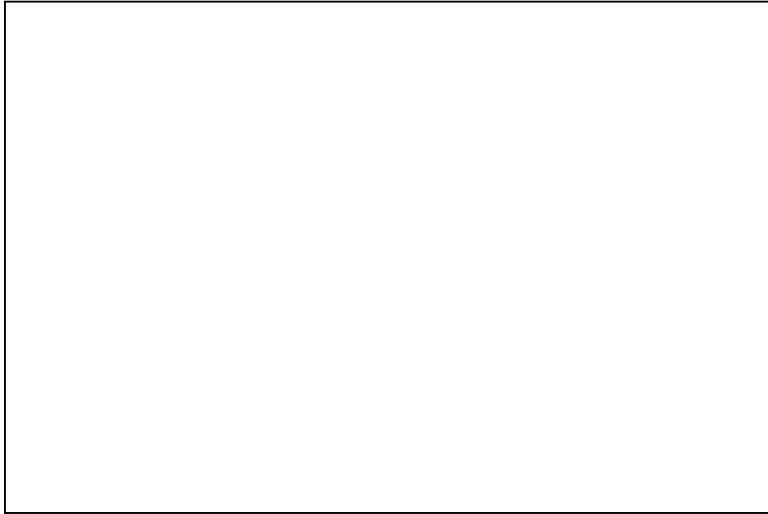


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Mexico

The recent decline in oil prices will almost certainly have an adverse impact upon narcotics control in Mexico. The annual revenue loss caused by lower prices may be as much as \$3.3 billion by some estimates. The chances for a needed increase in funding for antidrug programs are remote, and, in a worst case scenario, a cutback is possible. At the same time, anticipated cuts in social programs and a further erosion of employment opportunities in legitimate sectors of the economy are certain to preclude a shift by members of the drug industry into licit activities. Moreover, a greater number of subsistence farmers and other marginal elements of the economy will be attracted to the more lucrative drug trade, thus providing a plentiful supply of cheap labor for traffickers and growers.



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