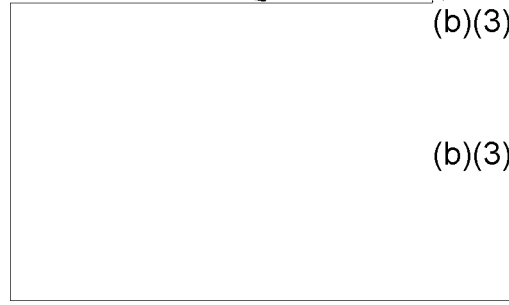




**Director of  
Central  
Intelligence**

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Thursday  
11 August 1983*

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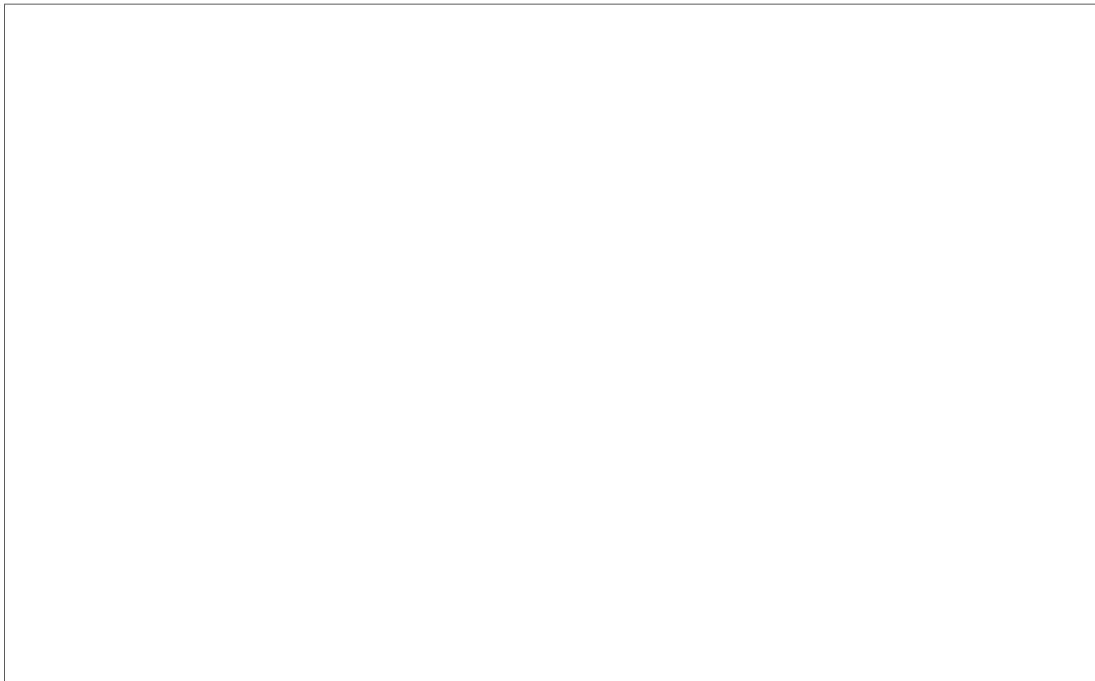
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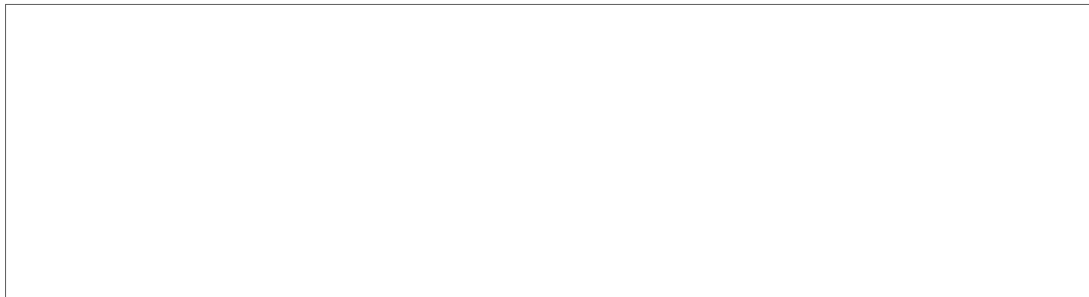
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**MEXICO: Opium Eradication Program**

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Recent statistics on the opium poppy eradication program in Mexico confirm estimates [Redacted] that opium production this year will reach some 17 tons. This is roughly the amount produced each year since 1980. When processed, the opium will account for nearly one-third of the 4 to 5 tons of heroin sold yearly in the US. [Redacted]

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The eradication program began in 1976, [Redacted] after opium production had reached an estimated 65 tons a year. It uses Mexican Army forces and an aerial spray campaign to destroy poppy fields. Farmers have been able to limit the effectiveness of the program by reducing the size of their fields, moving them beyond traditional growing areas, hiding them under camouflage, and locating them in steep ravines to frustrate airborne herbicide application. Without the eradication program, however, farmers could have produced some 35 tons of opium this year. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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