

Special Analysis

INTERNATIONAL: Narcotics Production Outlook Mixed

The amount of coca and opium available for conversion into cocaine and heroin is likely to increase this year; opium, which is produced in several regions, will remain difficult to control, but cocaine production may level off next year. []

The coca cultivated in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia apparently is more than enough to meet world cocaine demand. The reduction in coca cultivation due to the US-funded eradication program in Bolivia and the abandonment of less productive fields throughout the Andean region is roughly offsetting new cultivation, but fields planted several years ago are now reaching peak production. Coca production may increase by as much as 10 percent this year. []

Next year coca cultivation may remain near this year's level or possibly even decline slightly because of effective antinarcotics operations and continued, although slower, eradication in Bolivia. As [] of the first-ever decrease in total area under cultivation last year, fewer newly maturing coca fields will be available next year. []

Opium production in the major source countries could increase this year because of expanded cultivation, increased yields, and excellent growing conditions in Burma, the world's largest producer. [] Early reports suggesting favorable weather in Burma indicate that the country probably will surpass last year's production and possibly even its record production of 2,430 metric tons in 1989. []

Opium production may also increase in Southwest Asia. [] Afghanistan, the world's second-largest producer, [] opium cultivation is rebounding in the Helmand Valley, where a ban imposed last year by the late Mullah Nasim apparently is breaking down. The cold spring and flooding, however, have prevented larger increases in cultivation in Afghanistan and Pakistan and are likely to reduce opium yields. []

Opium production in [] Laos, and Guatemala probably will decrease. []

continued

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

3/01 b1 b3

~~TOP SECRET~~
RUFFUMBRA

[cultivation will drop substantially both in Laos
as a whole and in Houaphan Province, site of a US-funded crop
substitution project.]

[]