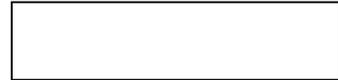


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International Narcotics Review



September-October 1993

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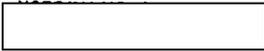
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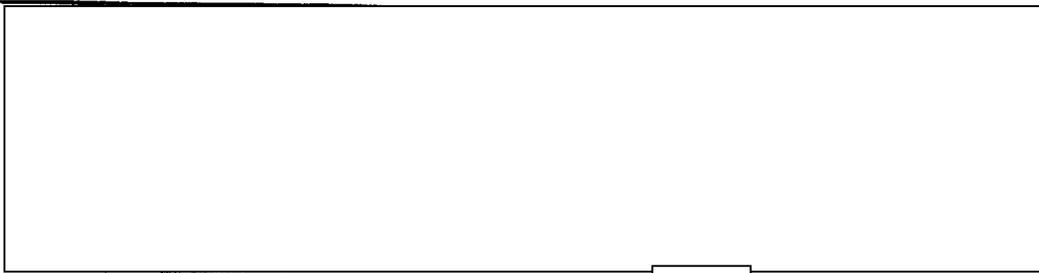
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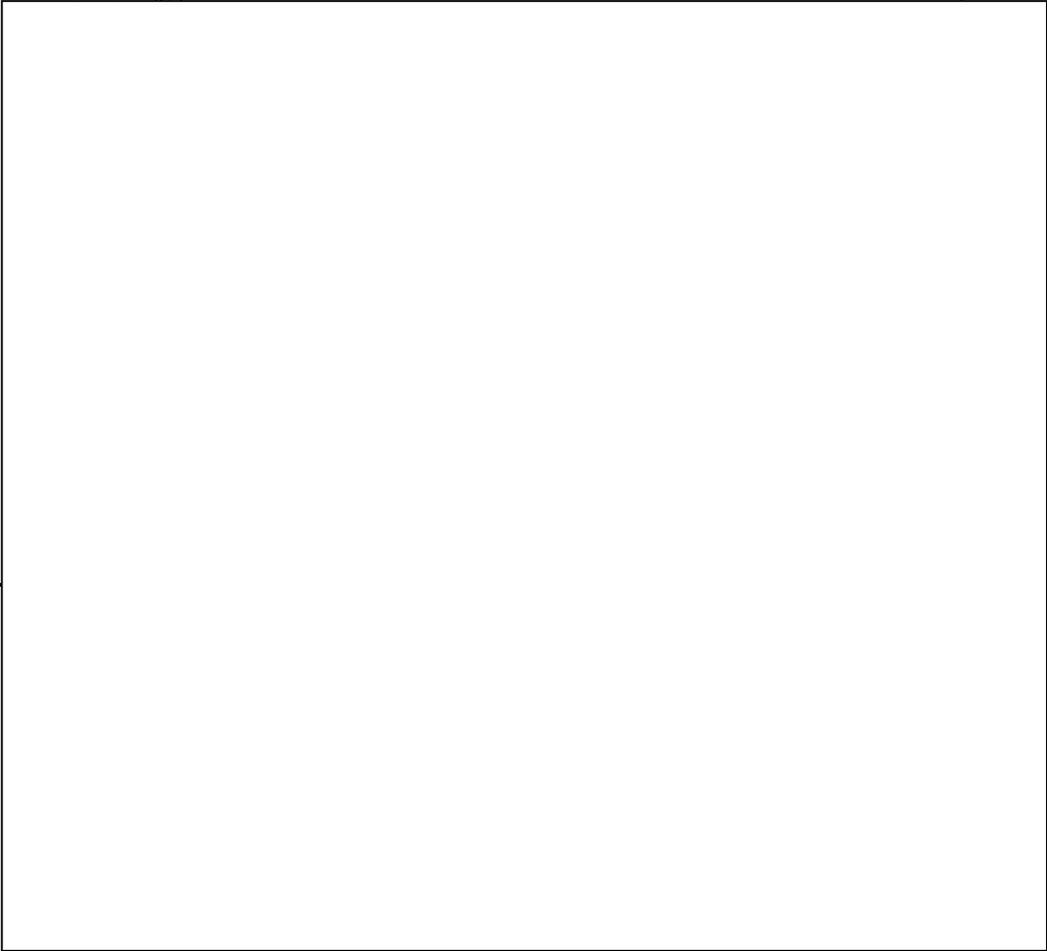
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Review** 

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Peru: Increasing Dispersion of the Coca Industry 



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Peru: Increasing Dispersion of the Coca Industry [redacted]

Many traffickers are relocating to areas east and south of the Huallaga Valley in response to a combination of intensified government counternarcotics operations, insurgent activity, and a fungus affecting coca cultivation in the region. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] We suspect that increased guerrilla banditry may also be encouraging some growers to move. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Increasing Pressures on Traffickers To Move

Over the past year, a government program to block clandestine airstrips and monitor municipal airfields in the Huallaga—the center of Peru's drug trade—has caused traffickers to move some transport operations out of the valley. [redacted]

Finally, a coca wilt disease, [redacted]

[redacted] has affected cultivation in the Upper Huallaga since 1990, is probably contributing to a shift in cultivation away from the center of the valley. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Traffickers have sought alternative transshipment sites as the government has closed off former trafficking hubs in the Huallaga—such as Campanilla, [redacted]

Emerging Cultivation and Trafficking Centers

[redacted] recent improvements in Lima's interdiction performance have placed additional pressure on traffickers operating in the Huallaga Valley. [redacted]

While we are still in the process of assessing current cultivation trends, we believe that growers are continuing to develop the Aguaytia area and the Ucayali Valley, east of the Huallaga, and the Apurimac Valley, to the south, as alternative sites. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Pressure from insurgents has also induced some traffickers and growers to move out of the Huallaga Valley. The Sendero Luminoso, and to a lesser extent the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrilla group, have long exploited the Huallaga drug trade by charging growers and traffickers "war taxes" and fees for the protection of drug shipments. [redacted]

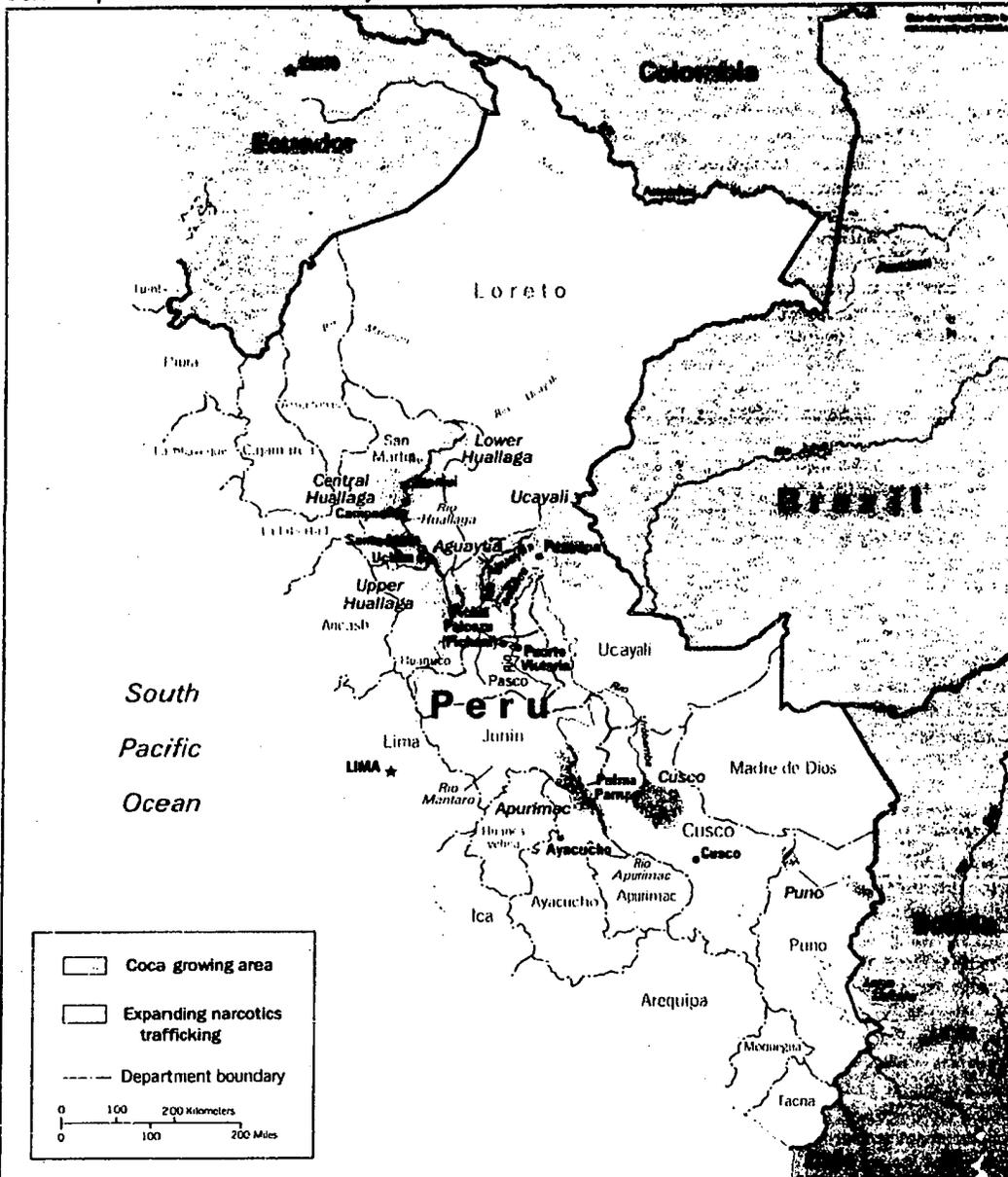
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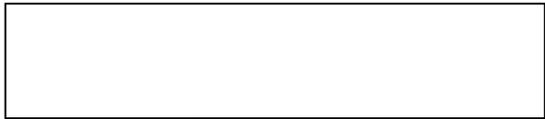
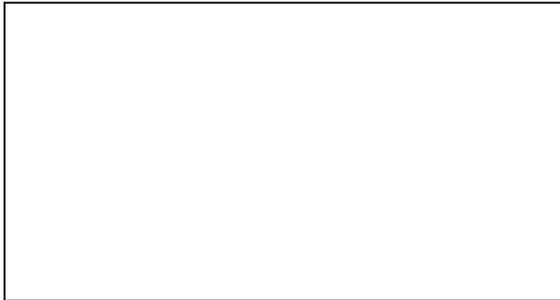
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Peru: Expansion of the Coca Industry



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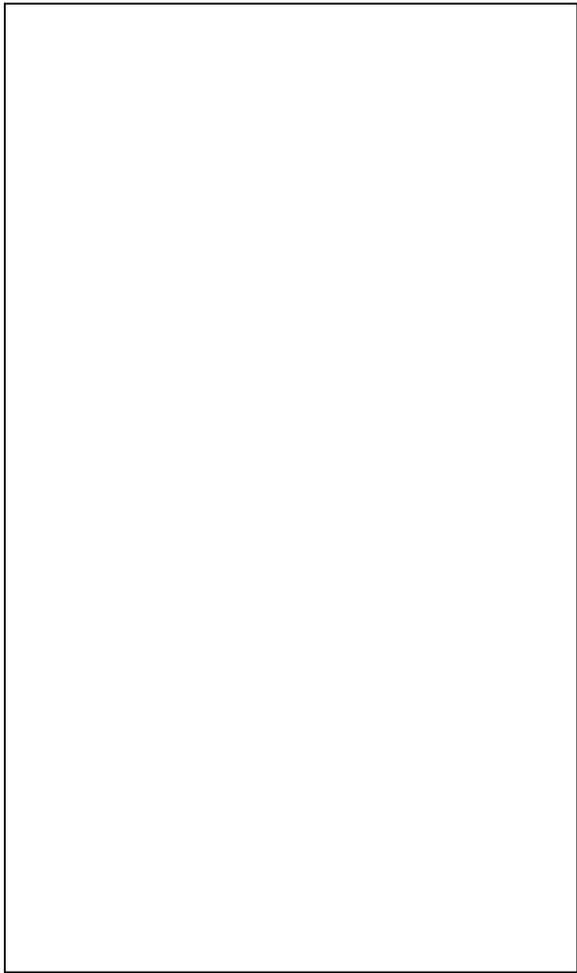


Outlook

We believe the government has an opportunity to disrupt trafficking at new transshipment sites. The armed forces already have demonstrated that with limited resources they can reduce drug operations at specifically targeted airstrips in the Huallaga.



Similarly, while the traffickers have been inventive in devising countermeasures, blocking airstrips with large obstacles is a proven tactic that could be applied elsewhere. But, the government will need to implement such measures in a sustained way in order to restrict trafficking in these areas.



In accomplishing this goal, we believe Lima will face three key obstacles: logistic difficulties, and opposition from civil defense forces. The rise of trafficking in areas far removed from the Huallaga Valley will place significant new strains on the government's limited capability to transport and maintain its troops and to support sustained air operations—especially since the government probably will not be able to draw on existing forces in the Huallaga, where they are still needed to combat traffickers.



Finally, the civilian militias, which were formed to combat insurgents and some of which are already involved with traffickers, are likely to attempt to impede antidrug operations in the Apurimac Valley, which may dissuade the government from undertaking aggressive counternarcotics measures. We doubt these obstacles will prevent the government from moving forward with its plans, but they are likely to force Lima to limit the scale of its operations.



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