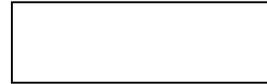




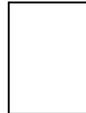
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CIA/DE ----- NR 85-003 -----

# Narcotics Review



August 1985

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Narcotics Review

August 1985

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**International: The Security Implications of the Narcotics Trade**

Reports that terrorist and insurgent groups participate in or benefit from drug trafficking and the clandestine networks that support it raise concerns about the security of friendly nations. A different but related concern is the threat to stability posed by the influence that major criminal trafficking organizations can exercise over political, economic, and social institutions in key Latin American countries.

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**Mexico: Continued Increase in Opium Production**

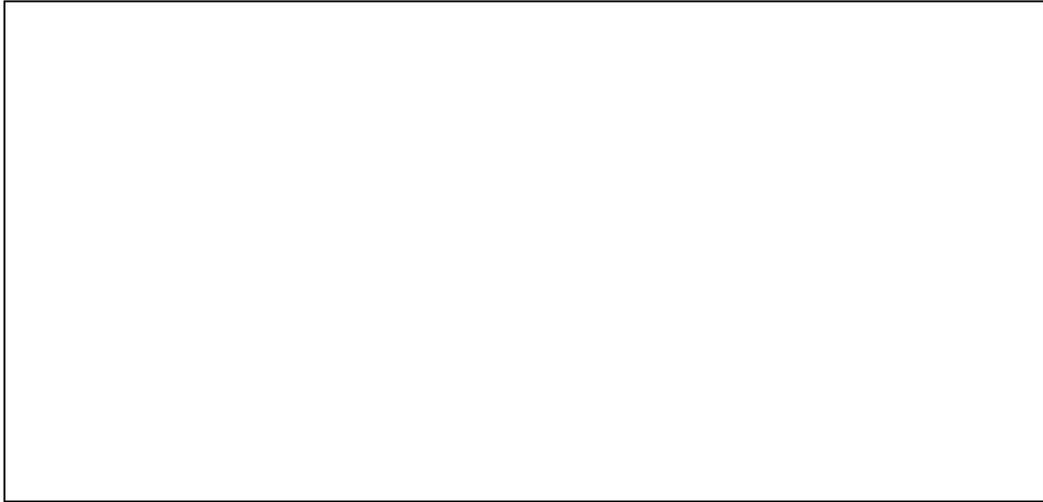
The marked resurgence in Mexico's opium production that began last year has continued this year because of economic problems, which limit antidrug funds and equipment.  Unless the Mexicans make the far-reaching changes we judge are needed to regain the initiative, opium output will increase again next year and could rival the peak levels reached nearly 10 years ago.

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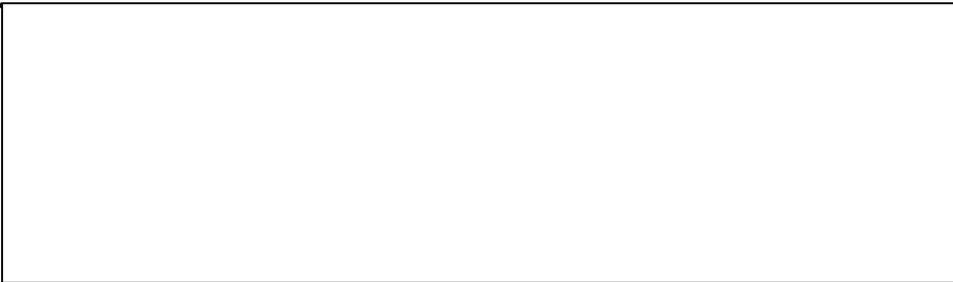
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**Worldwide Narcotics Highlights (U)**

**A summary of key developments from 1 June to 1 August 1985. (U)**



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**Mexico: Continued Increase in Opium Production** [redacted]

The marked resurgence in Mexico's opium production that began last year has continued during the first half of this year, and prospects for achieving major reductions soon are not good. The country's once-successful drug crop eradication campaign continues to be hampered by economic woes, which encourage lucrative narcotics cultivation and limit the availability of antidrug funds and equipment, and by

[redacted]

The poppy is a hardy plant that can be grown in varying types of soil and terrain. Most poppyfields in Mexico are found at higher altitudes on steep slopes, or in deep ravines, all of which make detection and eradication difficult.

[redacted]

**Background**

Commercial opium production in Mexico dates from the 1940s;

[redacted]

Opium poppies are grown in two major regions. The more important is the tristate area of Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Durango in the northwest, which we estimate produces as much as three-quarters of Mexico's total opium output. The other major growing region is in the south in an area extending through the states of Guerrero, Michoacan, and Oaxaca.

[redacted]

**Opium Crop Estimate**

Our preliminary analysis of Mexico's 1985 poppy crop suggests that some 45 tons of opium will be harvested. This is a marked increase over our 1984 estimate of some 30 tons, itself a major surge from the 1983 crop estimated at under 20 tons.

[redacted]

The alternating wet and dry seasons that characterize Mexico's climate have tended to determine the timing of poppy cultivation.

[redacted]

A crop can be planted early in the rainy season, which begins in May, and harvested between October and December. Farmers with access to irrigation can plant a crop late in the year, at the onset of the dry season, for harvest between February and April. This crop accounts for almost 70 percent of total annual opium production.

[redacted]

Major Poppy Areas



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**Efforts To Regain Control**  
The opium production increase in 1984 and the February 1985 murder of Special Agent Enrique Camarena of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) spurred the de la Madrid government to try to improve the eradication program's effectiveness, [redacted] and better inform the Mexican people about the

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dangers of drug abuse. The most recent measures include:

- *Key personnel changes.* President de la Madrid late last month abolished the position of second deputy attorney general—which was responsible for the joint eradication effort, consisting of an aerial spray program conducted by the Attorney General's office and the Army's manual eradication program. He appointed the incumbent, Jose Maria Ortega, as Coordinator General of a restructured antinarcotics program. Under the new lines of authority, Ortega retains the previous drug-control powers of second deputy attorney general and, among other expanded duties, assumes control of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (MFJP) from former Director Manuel Ibarra,

[Redacted]

Personnel changes have also occurred at the working level within the MFJP and the Federal Directorate of Security (DFS), the agency responsible for domestic political security.

[Redacted]

- *Arrests of major drug traffickers.* The Mexican Government last April promptly sought extradition of Rafael Caro Quintero—a major Mexican narcotics violator believed involved in the death of DEA special agent Camarena—following Caro's arrest in Costa Rica. The government plans to try him for drug smuggling and murder. Shortly afterward, authorities arrested Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo on similar charges stemming from Camarena's death. Caro and Fonseca are the first major traffickers arrested in Mexico in some eight years, and we judge Mexico City hopes their detention will demonstrate to Washington Mexican

resolve to crack down on trafficking networks. Both men are high-level members of the drug smuggling organization of Miguel Felix-Gallardo.

[Redacted]

- *A public awareness program.* This program, currently under development

[Redacted] is designed to compile data on the scope of the drug abuse problem in Mexico and to improve public understanding of the implications of such abuse. The government hopes to use this program to increase public support for strong antidrug actions.

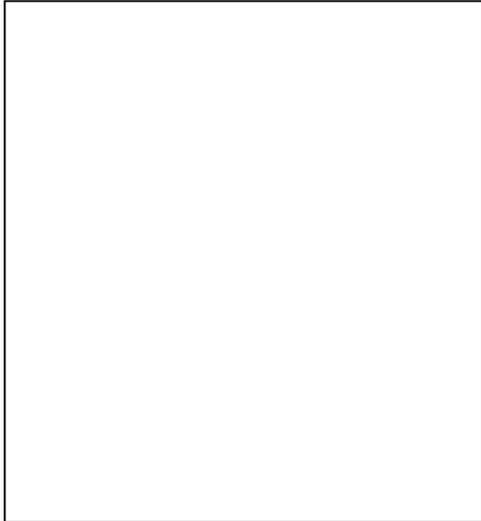
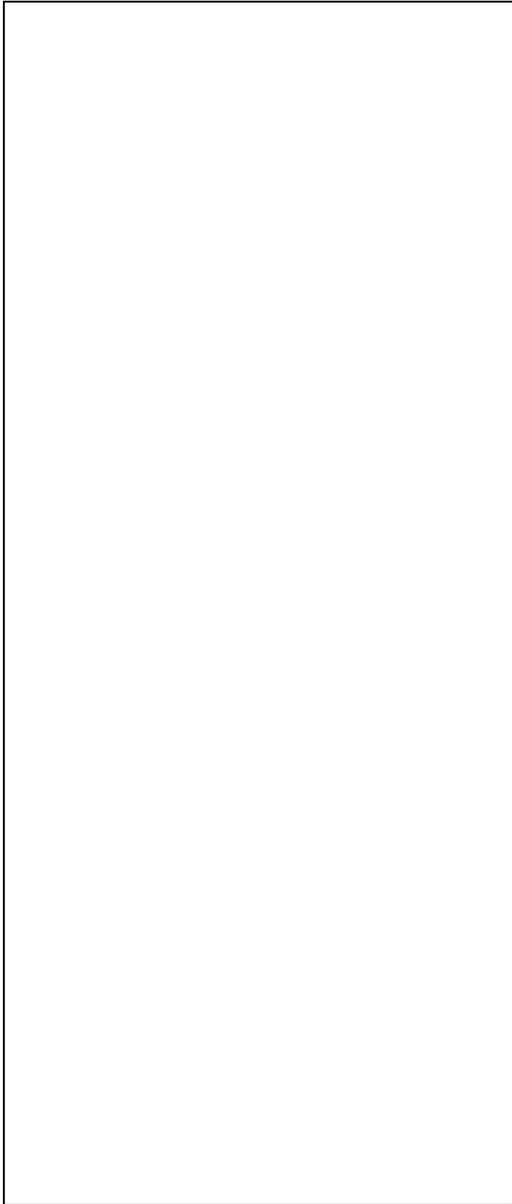
**Obstacles and Recommendations**

The Mexican Government clearly understands what needs to be done to reverse the drug problem, but we judge that the job will be politically complex.

[Redacted]

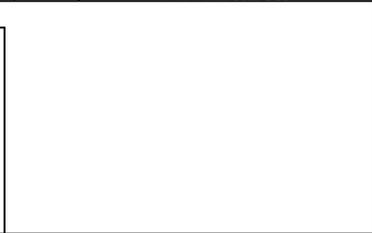
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**Outlook**

Most of Mexico's opium is processed into heroin for the US market.



Although the government will have difficulty making serious inroads in poppy production in the short term, we judge that a conscientious and consistent program to institute effective control measures should enable Mexico City to prevent annual opium production from increasing again in 1986.



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