

# The President's Daily Brief

*June 23, 1975*



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ISRAEL

*A recent commentary in a leading Israeli newspaper depicts Prime Minister Rabin as firmly committed to a hard line on Israeli requirements for another interim agreement and determined not to give up the eastern ends of the Gidi and Mitla passes without a clear Egyptian commitment to non-belligerency.*

The Prime Minister reportedly is convinced that the concession he offered on the Abu Rudays oil field during his Washington visit makes it impossible for Israel to be accused of intransigence and puts President Sadat under pressure to come up with an appropriate counter-concession.

The commentary says Rabin believes:

--The principle of mutuality of concessions must be preserved.

--Retention of part of the passes is necessary as long as there is any doubt of Cairo's intentions.

--He cannot reverse the position on the passes he took in March without destroying his credibility among members of his party and the opposition.

Regarding US-Israeli relations, Rabin is described as being in an excellent bargaining position because Egypt and the US are under the pressure of time to reach another interim agreement. Moreover, he believes Israel is sufficiently strong to survive without an interim agreement, if Tel Aviv's position is rejected by Egypt.

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### PORTUGAL

*The broad policy statement issued over the weekend by the military rulers preserves the existing multiparty political system, but it also encourages the establishment of "direct links" between the Armed Forces Movement and the people. If such links are established, they could pose a threat to the existence of Portugal's political parties.*

The long-awaited document reassessing Portugal's revolutionary course states that the country will go through several phases before it reaches its final objective--a classless society. The document notes, however, that during the current transitional phase, political parties will play a valuable role. This statement should set aside--at least temporarily--attempts by radicals within the Movement to abolish all parties.

The Revolutionary Council's communiqué says it will support the establishment of political links with all grassroots organizations whose objectives correspond to those of the Movement. It characterized such organizations as the "embryo of an experimental system of direct democracy." The statement implies that once these organizations are working properly political parties will be unnecessary. The statement emphasizes, however, that armed civilian organizations will not be tolerated and repudiates the establishment of socialism in a violent or dictatorial way.

A large part of the communiqué is devoted to the country's "grave" economic condition. It admits that if the present trend continues the country's foreign exchange reserves will be "practically exhausted" by the end of the year. It calls upon the cabinet to put aside differences and develop an economic strategy by the end of July to reverse the decline in production and rise in unemployment. In a scarcely veiled warning, the Council refers to these discussions as an "in-depth test of the coalition's viability."

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The Movement also announced that it will exert greater control of the nation's media and take over at least one newspaper to ensure accurate coverage of the Movement's policies.

Specific issues such as the Republica affair, the election of trade union officials, and agrarian reform were not addressed, but the Revolutionary Council is expected to resume debate on these matters this week.

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### ANGOLA

*The agreement to ease tensions that was reached over the weekend by the three top nationalist leaders amounts to little more than an uncertain truce. Holden Roberto, Agostinho Neto, and Jonas Savimbi met almost continuously last week in Kenya to hammer it out.*

The measures agreed upon to end the fighting merely restate past agreements that have failed. The key to any effective implementation will depend on whether Neto's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and Roberto's National Front for the Liberation of Angola will refrain from further attacks on each other.

The recent fighting, however, has left Neto's group with certain advantages over the National Front that could spark Roberto into further action. The Popular Movement, for example, now has the upper hand in several areas north of Luanda, which severely limits the National Front's access to the capital city.

The three leaders committed themselves to make the transitional government more effective. The government that was set up by an agreement with the Portuguese in January has proved unworkable, but the new agreement seems unlikely to make the government any more effective than before in maintaining order.

Neto, Savimbi, and Roberto apparently will go ahead and try to hold national elections in October for a constituent assembly that will select a head of government to assume office on the November 11 independence day. Whether the elections can be held is questionable. New violence is likely to accompany the campaign in the countryside, particularly in those areas where no faction predominates.

In effect, the agreement merely postpones an eventual confrontation between Roberto and Neto. All three leaders seem to acknowledge this, however, by agreeing to meet again in November to arrange for the transfer of power if the October election fails to take place.

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NOTE

Eritrean rebels on Saturday staged a one-hour attack on selected Ethiopian targets in Asmara.

This incident may mark the beginning of increased activities by the insurgents, who have been lying low for more than two months.

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ANNEX

NARCOTICS: THE LATIN AMERICAN CONNECTION

*During the past few years, governments in Latin America and the Caribbean have increased their efforts to control the flow of illicit narcotics. These governments have been made aware and concerned, mainly by the US, that their countries play significant roles in the drug abuse problem in this country. Still, the production and smuggling of heroin and cocaine from the area continues to flourish. There are no accurate statistics available, but the Latin American connection almost certainly accounts for the largest amount of illicit narcotics now entering the US.*

The key trouble spots are Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Mexico is the major source of heroin. Colombia and Ecuador are the key cocaine processing and trafficking countries. Peru and Bolivia are the world's largest producers of coca, the plant from which cocaine is derived.

Drug traffickers in the area have increased their operations in the past few years mainly in response to three developments: tighter enforcement controls on heroin trafficking in Western Europe, the 1971 ban on opium production in Turkey, and a rise in the use of cocaine in the US.

Mexico has supplanted Turkey as the major source of the heroin consumed in the US. Roughly 60 to 70 percent of the heroin seized in the US in the last year was either produced in or shipped through Mexico. The European - Latin American connection is used to exchange South American cocaine for heroin refined in Europe, though apparently this traffic has lessened in recent years because of the stricter measures in Europe. Opium poppy fields have been found in Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia, but they apparently are not widespread nor are these countries large producers of heroin.

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The trafficking of cocaine from Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, or Ecuador has increased dramatically. US seizures of cocaine--almost all of it from these countries--have increased 700 percent since 1969.

Marijuana and its derivatives, mainly from Mexico, Jamaica, and Colombia, but prevalent in many other countries, are smuggled in huge quantities throughout the hemisphere.

Some Headway

Many governments in Latin America and the Caribbean have made some headway in fighting the problem. In some cases, they have formed narcotics police units, launched large eradication and interdiction campaigns with some success, and toughened drug laws.

Eventually, progress will probably be realized in the more advanced and politically sophisticated countries. Leaders of Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, and Argentina are intent on taking further steps to control the situation. Their sense of urgency will probably increase as drug abuse spreads among their own populations.

Progress in other countries will vary widely. Traffickers will continue to shift their operations to those countries where law enforcement and government resources are weakest.

Stemming the flow of heroin is a more likely possibility in the longer term since it is recognized as the most harmful narcotic, and growing the opium poppy plant is illegal in all Latin American countries. Cocaine traffic will be more difficult to deter since the coca leaf has been used by Indians in the high plains of the Andes for centuries.

Even should inroads be made on the many problems, controlling the flow of narcotics into the US will be a slow and difficult process as long as demand remains close to present levels and trafficking in narcotics remains so extraordinarily profitable.

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Why It Is So Easy?

Smuggling is endemic throughout Latin America. Enormous quantities of contraband goods--whiskey, cigarettes, TV sets, guns, and precious gems--are easily transported from one country to another. Sometimes such items move across three or more borders before they reach their destination. Under such circumstances, illicit drug trafficking is attractive and relatively easy. Because smuggling and contraband are fairly commonplace, it is difficult to arouse the public and the authorities against such trafficking when it involves drugs.

Corruption is widespread. In many countries it is almost a way of life; without payoffs and bribes many of the everyday government functions, from issuing auto permits to export licenses, could not be accomplished. Profits from drug trafficking are so great that it is worthwhile to bribe low-ranking police and government officials to look the other way. Often the very officials who are responsible for suppressing smuggling are themselves deeply involved. Influential families and community leaders in many countries also participate.

The geography of many Latin American countries is ideal for drug production and smuggling operations. The long borders, difficult terrain, rivers, hidden bays and inlets, and myriad airstrips enable the narcotics trafficker to choose among routes and methods.

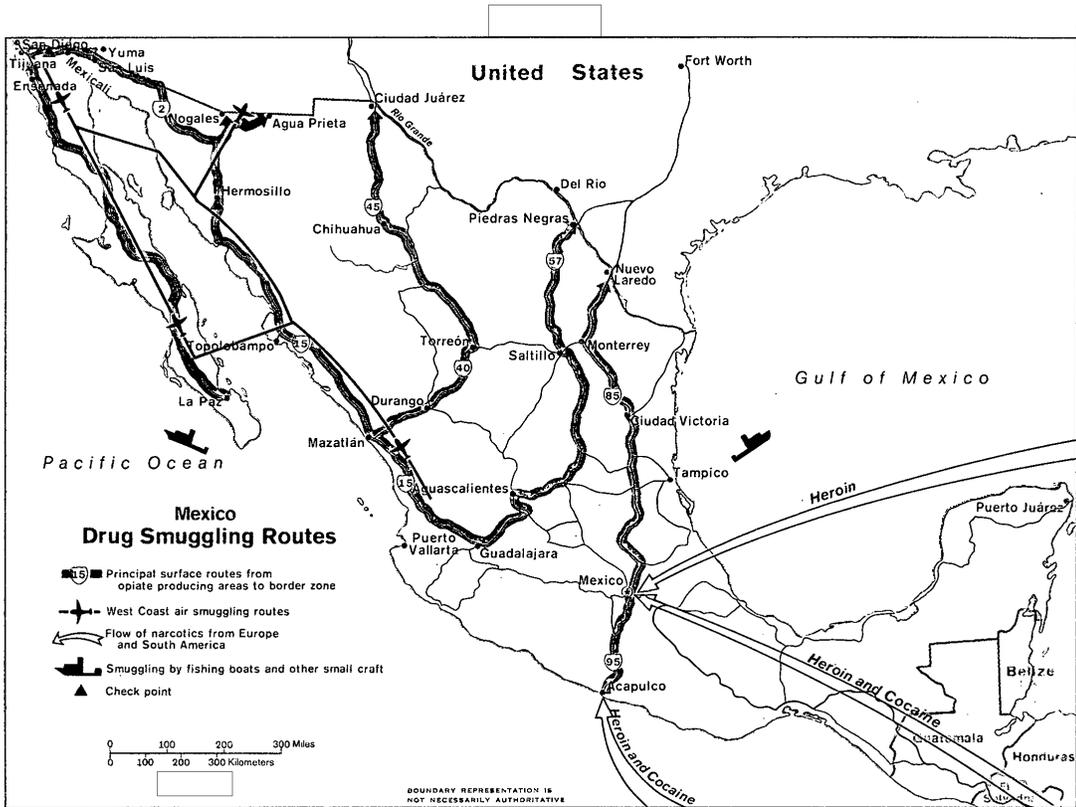
Most governments do not have enough equipment, money, and trained personnel to cope with the problem. The US has supplied training and large amounts of equipment--aircraft, vehicles, and communications, but virtually all the countries still do not have enough equipment or expertise to make major progress toward stopping production and trafficking. They are still incapable of carrying out an effective enforcement program without continued US technical support and participation.

Law enforcement against narcotics violators is weak in many countries. Police forces are generally inexperienced in drug matters, and most governments do not have a central agency for handling drug violations. Rivalries and jealousies among bureaucrats dealing with narcotics hinder progress. Coordination and exchange of intelligence is many times sorely lacking.

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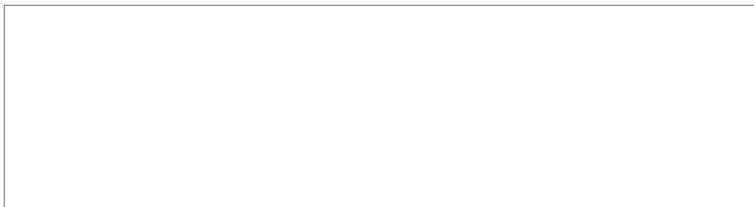
Well-entrenched, well-organized, and well-financed criminals run the international trafficking networks. In many areas they operate with near impunity. They have shown considerable flexibility in shifting their operations to countries where law enforcement is weakest.

Judicial systems in many countries are weak and many times slow to act on narcotics offenses. Lenient sentencing of drug dealers is common. Extradition treaties with some Latin American nations do not cover narcotics.

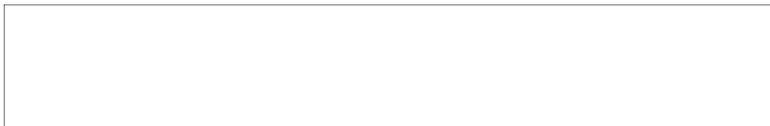
Regional programs, regional cooperation, and a complete and honest exchange of information among the Latin nations on narcotics matters are generally lacking. One of the few regional meetings in recent years, a conclave of representatives from six South American nations, is scheduled for this summer in Bolivia. Another, sponsored by the Brazilian Federal Police, is planned for Brasilia in the fall.

The Traffickers' Routes

Heroin from Mexico and Europe and cocaine from South America find their way into the US over a vast variety of routes. The techniques used by traffickers are limited only by their imagination.



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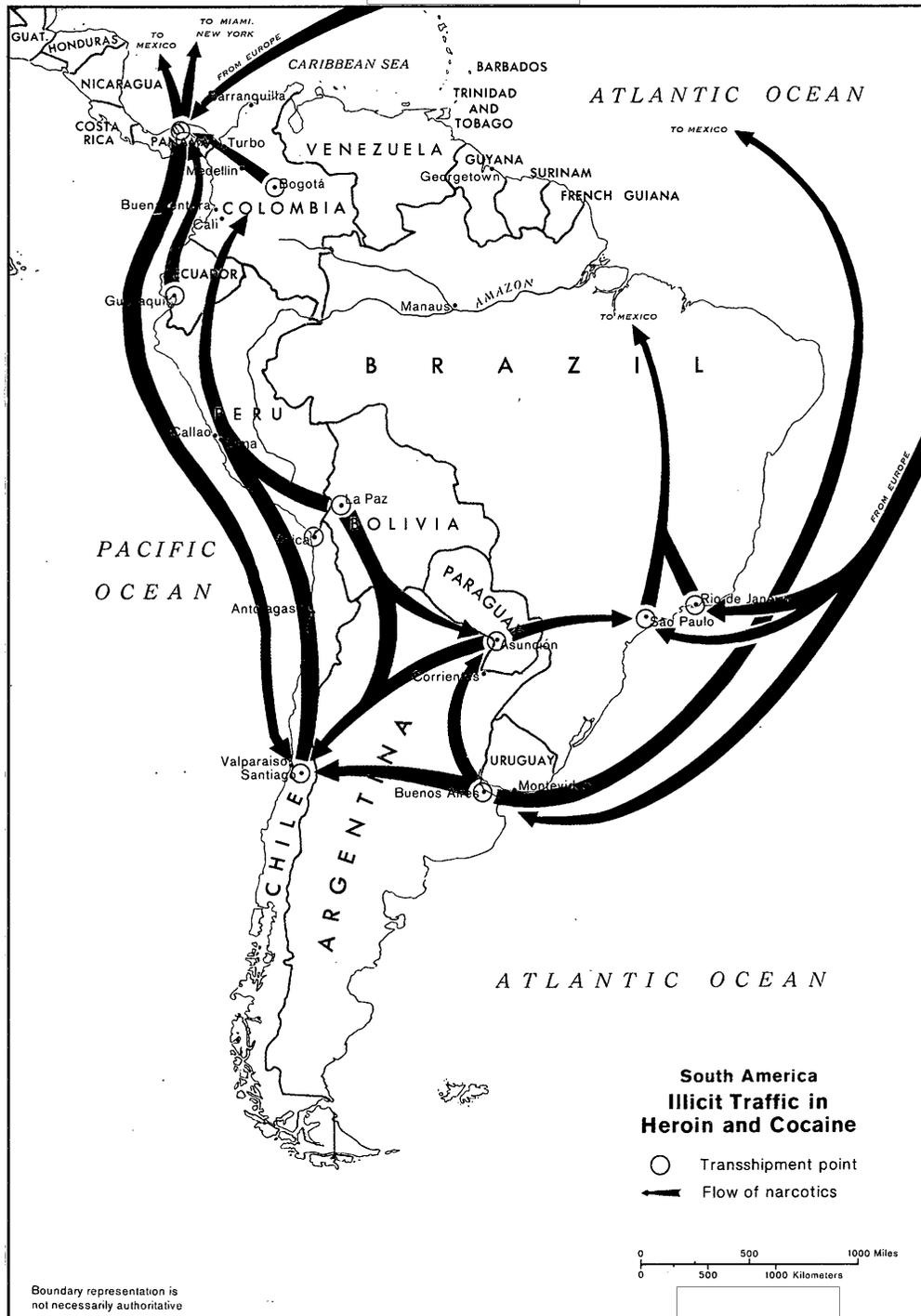


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In Central and South America, practically all of the major cities have served as stopping-off points for narcotics destined for the US. The main ports of entry for European heroin are Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo, and Asuncion.

Heroin smuggled into Buenos Aires, for example, may travel by river to Paraguay, where it is loaded aboard private aircraft and flown to Brazil. In Brazil it may be shipped directly to the US by sea or commercial aircraft or be diverted to Colombia, Ecuador, or Panama via Santiago, Chile. Cocaine from Peru or Bolivia is frequently funneled directly to the US through Santiago, Valparaiso, and Arica, Chile; La Paz, Bolivia; Lima and Callao, Peru; Guayaquil, Ecuador; and Cali, Bogota, Turbo, and Barranquilla, Colombia. Large amounts go through Panama, Central America, and Mexico. Large shipments go by sea or air; smaller quantities are carried by couriers, many of them Colombians, who account for the greatest part of the traffic.

Many islands of the Caribbean also play important roles in the illicit traffic. Aruba and Curacao, in the Netherlands Antilles off the coast of Venezuela, are active transshipment points for European heroin, much of it originating in the Dutch ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The islands may also be a way station for South American cocaine on its way to Miami and New York.

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