



BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] 92/183 FOR 06 AUGUST 1992.

CONTENTS

- 1. BOLIVIA: ANTIDRUG OPERATIONS SHOWING RESULTS [REDACTED]



- 3. [REDACTED]

- 1. BOLIVIA: ANTIDRUG OPERATIONS SHOWING RESULTS [REDACTED]

IN ITS MOST EXTENSIVE COUNTERNARCOTICS CAMPAIGN EVER, LA PAZ IS DISRUPTING TRAFFICKER OPERATIONS IN THE CHAPARE, THE LARGEST COCA-GROWING REGION IN BOLIVIA. [REDACTED]

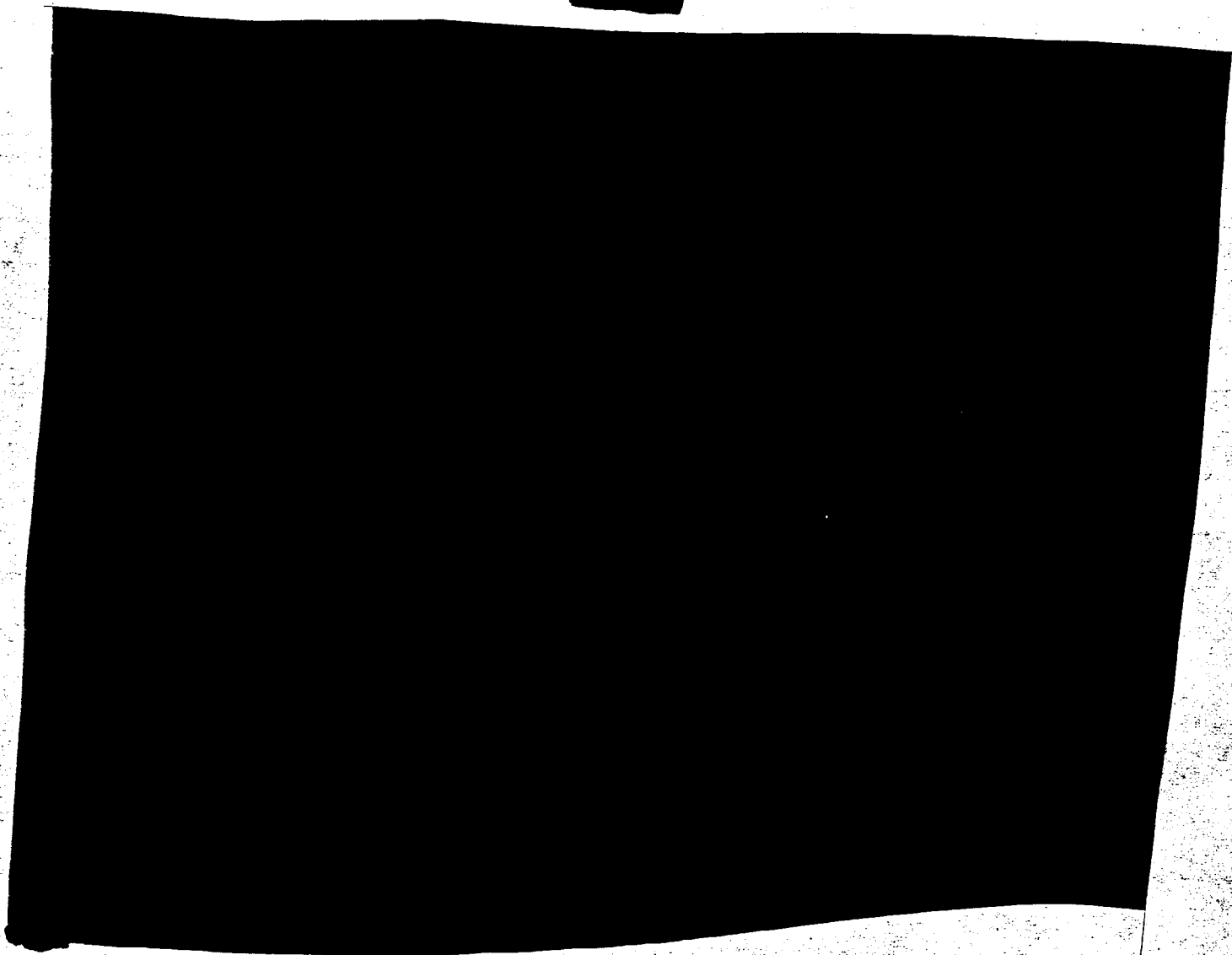
OPERATION GHOST ZONE INVOLVES MORE THAN 700 BOLIVIAN COUNTERNARCOTICS PERSONNEL SUPPORTED BY AN UNPRECEDENTED AIR INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN [REDACTED]; ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO DISRUPT THE COCA-PROCESSING CHAIN AND THE MOVEMENT OF COCA PRODUCTS BY LIGHT AIRCRAFT TO LABORATORIES IN BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, AND BRAZIL. ACCORDING TO THE US EMBASSY, SINCE THE OPERATION BEGAN IN MARCH, MORE THAN 32,000 KG OF COCA LEAF, 1,600 KG OF COCAINE BASE, AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS HAVE BEEN SEIZED. AT LEAST 200 LABORATORIES AND 16 AIRSTRIPS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, AND SOME 400 PERSONS, MANY OF WHOM WERE BELIEVED TO BE WORKING FOR THE COLOMBIAN DRUG CARTELS, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THE SPECIAL COUNTERNARCOTICS POLICE FORCE, UMOPAR, HAS PROVED HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL. [REDACTED]

SOME TRAFFICKERS WHO WERE FLYING COCA PRODUCTS FROM THE CHAPARE TO PROCESSING LABORATORIES ELSEWHERE ARE NOW MOVING THEM BY LAND AND RIVER, [REDACTED] OTHERS ARE STOCKPILING COCAINE AND SUSPENDING SHIPPING OPERATIONS UNTIL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ARE REDUCED. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE TRAFFICKERS REMAIN ABLE TO MOVE THEIR PRODUCT OUT OF THE CHAPARE AND TO MOVE PROCESSING CHEMICALS IN, ALBEIT AT

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GREATER EXPENSE, EFFORT, AND RISK. ALTHOUGH THE OPERATION SHOWS LA PAZ'S INCREASED COMMITMENT TO COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS, LONG-TERM DISRUPTION OF TRAFFICKING WOULD REQUIRE LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE TO OPERATE EXPANDED ROAD CHECKPOINTS, REGULAR RIVER PATROLS, AND CONTINUED AERIAL SURVEILLANCE.



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