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## **Cuba & Venezuela Establish Joint Commission To Coordinate Anti-drug Efforts**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On April 24, Prensa Latina (Cuba) reported that the Venezuelan and Cuban governments have established a joint commission to coordinate efforts to combat international drug trafficking. Enrique Rivas Gomez, head of Venezuela's National Commission against Illegal Drug Use, told Prensa Latina, "This agreement shows that Latin America is working hard to fight drug trafficking even though it has less resources than the industrialized nations." Cuba lies across routes used by international gangs to smuggle drugs by boat or plane from Latin America to the US. Drug cargoes are often dropped in or near Cuban waters by light planes to be picked up by fast launches. According to Interior Ministry figures, in the past 20 years, Cuban security forces have arrested over 400 drug traffickers, about 200 of them from the US. (Basic data from Reuter, 04/24/92)

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