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Panamanian Attorney Says Latin American Nations Must Cooperate In Anti-drug Traffic Campaign

by Deborah Tyroler
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In Oct. 8 statements at a conference on drug trafficking in Mexico City, Panamanian attorney Carlos Augusto Villales said Latin American nations must act in an independent manner in the fight against drug trafficking, although cooperation among regional governments is also essential to make headway. Villales noted that the US government should find a way to resolve the problem of domestic drug consumption, as it is clear that without a lucrative US market, Latin American production would cease. Regarding regional cooperation, he said that legal mechanisms to fight trafficking must be internationalized. To this end, the creation of a Latin American data bank on anti-drug operations may be necessary. The Panamanian attorney stated that his government has developed draft legislation applied to sanctions against all facets of drug trafficking. Villales and attorneys general from 13 countries were guests of the Mexican government for the conference.

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