7-21-1992

Bolivian Government To Prohibit Army Participation In Anti-drug Activities

Erika Harding

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur

Recommended Citation

https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/9745
Bolivian Government To Prohibit Army Participation In Anti-drug Activities

by Erika Harding
Category/Department: General
Published: Tuesday, July 21, 1992

On July 18, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra told reporters from Spanish news service EFE that next week Bolivia will become the first Andean nation to prohibit army involvement in anti-drug activities. According to Saavedra, the fight against drug abuse and trafficking is to become the exclusive responsibility of a special police unit, supported by the air force and navy. Saavedra said the policy change is part of a new bilateral agreement with the US, scheduled for signing on July 20. Under the original May 1990 agreement, Bolivia accepted militarization of anti-drug efforts and the US provided special training for army personnel. In a recent report to the US State Department on the status of Bolivia's anti-drug program, Saavedra said that 18,000 ha. of coca plants have been eradicated over the past three years. At present, between 25,000 and 30,000 ha. are dedicated to coca cultivation. Saavedra said Washington had promised US$15 million in aid for anti-drug efforts in 1993. He added that before the end of July, the government will finalize a new law regulating the role of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other US agencies in Bolivia. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 07/18/92)

-- End --