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Steven Ranieri

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Anti-narcotics Program: Notes On Recent Developments

by Steven Ranieri

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According to a recent report by the Attorney General's Office (PGR), on Nov. 6 police seized 565 kg. of Colombian cocaine destined for Tijuana. The operation took place in Puebla, 110 km. east of Mexico City. Eight persons were arrested, and four vehicles confiscated. On Nov. 7, soldiers and narcotics agents from the PGR engaged in a shoot-out after mistaking each other for drug traffickers. At least seven PGR agents were killed and one soldier wounded. The incident took place near the town of Tlalixcoyam, 100 km. north of Jalapa, Veracruz state. Since President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took office in December 1988, federal agents have confiscated over 122 metric tons of cocaine, 1,500 MT of marijuana, about 10,000 vehicles, and over 20,000 weapons. In the same period, over 45,000 people have been arrested in Mexico on drug-related charges. Government figures indicate that the market value of drugs seized this year alone is equal to Mexico's total foreign debt, or about US\$84 billion. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, 11/06/91, 11/07/91; Spanish news service EFE, 11/07/91, 11/08/91)

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