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Colombia: U.N. Donates \$22.5 Million Toward Substitution Of Narcotics Crops For Foodstuffs

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 26, the Colombian government announced a UN-financed plan to persuade farmers to grow corn, plantain, coffee and rice, instead of marijuana and coca plants. Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas said the government would use the \$22.5 million donation to finance crop substitution programs in the southern departments that account for most of the country's drug cultivation. Plazas said a UN commission would travel to Colombia March 6 for a tour through Cauca, Narino, and Putumayo departments, where peasants will be urged to return to traditional food crops. He reiterated that the international anti-drug campaign must include efforts by consumer nations such as the US to stem internal demand for narcotics. (Basic data from AFP, 02/26/89)

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