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Colombia Calls On U.S. & Latin American Nations To Combine Efforts Against Drug Trade

by John Neagle

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On April 12, as he boarded the presidential jet for a trip to the US, President Virgilio Barco said that his government plans to call on the US and Latin American countries to combine efforts against the drug trade. Barco was traveling to Washington to address the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) on April 13. He said such discussions would provide him with an opportunity to improve Colombia's image in the US. Accompanying Barco were Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez, secret security police chief, and Gen. Guillermo Munoz, head of the anti-narcotics police. Barco said he had no plans to meet President George Bush during the unofficial one-day visit to Washington, but that he was scheduled to meet with Vice President Dan Quayle. On the same day, the National Police released figures showing that in the past year, its anti-drug unit had arrested 1,338 people on drug charges, seized 11,707 kg. cocaine, and confiscated 235,000 tons of marijuana. (Basic data from AFP, 04/13/89)

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