

12-14-1989

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## Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Peru: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Agents Point To Military Officers' Collaboration With Drug Traffickers." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/3833>

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## **Peru: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Agents Point To Military Officers' Collaboration With Drug Traffickers**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Thursday, December 14, 1989*

According to a confidential report by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published Dec. 11 by La Republica (Lima), during the past six months 450 kgs. of cocaine from the Upper Huallaga were transported to the US. In addition, 300 clandestine airstrips were built in the area. The report said that civilian and military authorities in the region are collaborating with Colombian and Peruvian drug traffickers who operate freely in the Peruvian Amazon. The report was authored by DEA agents based in Santa Lucia, Upper Huallaga. The DEA agents said they had informed the political military commanders with jurisdiction in the Upper Huallaga of the precise locations of clandestine airstrips. To the present, said the report, the authorities had not responded to their concerns. Some of the airstrips, said the report, were protected by police or military squads generally under the command of mid-level officers. The report said the DEA was certain the officers of mid-level rank were not acting on their own, and that the agents had verified that a high-level officer is "seriously compromised." (Basic data from Notimex, 12/12/89)

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