4-25-1991

Peru-u.s. Negotiations On Anti-drug Accord: Summary Of Recent Developments, April 7 - April 16

Barbara Khol

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

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Peru-u.s. Negotiations On Anti-drug Accord: Summary Of Recent Developments, April 7 - April 16

by Barbara Khol
Category/Department: General
Published: Thursday, April 25, 1991

April 7: In a communique released to the local media, 24 persons representing promotion and development centers throughout the country requested that the national congress reject the anti-drug agreement with the US since it would require giving up "fundamental attributes" of national sovereignty. The centers, described as leftist in political orientation, were understood to be speaking on behalf of rural coca growers and others opposed to the accords. The communique said that entering into such an accord with the US may lead to the "internationalization" of Peru's domestic conflict, since it "permits intervention by the US government not only in training the military and police forces for combat against drug trafficking, but also in confrontations with rebels." April 10: According to Article 269 of Peru's new penal code, published April 8, "those who promote, encourage, or facilitate the illegal consumption of toxic drugs, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, by growing, manufacturing or trafficking..." may be jailed for up to 15 years. In the words of attorney Guido Lombardi, "This is a complete contradiction of President Alberto Fujimori's policy of exempting growers from blame in the drug-trafficking chain. On the contrary, it puts growers and traffickers in the same bag." Criminologist Luis Bramont, a member of the commission which drafted the new code, said there had been an "involuntary error," because experts had been careful to eliminate all references to growers in the penal sanctions. Diego Garcia, executive secretary of the Andean Jurists Commission, said the reference to "growers" was a mistake by legislators, and would need to be corrected by the national congress. Since the code has already been promulgated, any modifications will now have to be carried out through amendments approved by the legislature. April 15: In statements to reporters, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said "small differences" between US and Peruvian officials were blocking finalization of the anti-drug pact. At issue is the participation of coca producers in the project as well as the approval by both the national congress and the public of the agreement. The president said, "We don't consider coca growers to be criminals, nor are they the main link in the narco-trafficking chain. They are farmers who turned to drug production through necessity." Fujimori told reporters that under the new plan, the 200,000 ha. of coca crops would not be destroyed, but plowed under in an "ecological manner." He added that the drug accord would not contain any provisions for a US military presence in coca-growing regions: "We will not consider a military presence, except some support in the form of equipment, supplies and boats and helicopters" to be used in the Alto Huallaga valley. April 16: US Ambassador to Peru Anthony Quainton said Washington has no desire to send military troops to Peru to combat drug traffickers. The US government, he added, continues to be interested in collaborating with the Fujimori administration on an integrated strategy. (Basic EFE, 04/07/91; Inter Press Service, 04/10/91; AFP, 04/15/91, 04/16/91)

-- End --