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Summary Of Anti-drug Trafficking Developments:
September 20 - November 22

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Sept. 18: Honduran authorities confiscated 35 kg. of cocaine from a Costa Rican national in Guasaule, Choluteca department, located near the Nicaraguan border. In Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara department (Honduras), US national Richard Eugene Jolly was arrested by police on trafficking charges. Police confiscated 99 kg. of cocaine. Sept. 21: Suspected Panamanian drug trafficker Carlos Alberto Luna Visetti told Honduran authorities that he was "secretary to Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's chief of security." Luna Visetti was detained Sept. 18 near the Salvadoran border while attempting to transport 77 kg. of cocaine. Sept. 23: Police in Guasaule, Honduras, seized 115 kg. of cocaine. A Guatemalan national and a Venezuelan citizen were detained. Oct. 4: Panamanian authorities reported confiscation of 161.7 kg. of cocaine, 55.2 kg. of marijuana, and 21.9 kg. of crack during the first six months of 1991. Oct. 12: Six drug traffickers, three identified as Colombians, were killed during a plane crash in Guatemala's Izabal department. The plane was carrying 2,547 kg. of cocaine. Oct. 21: Panamanian police reported confiscation of 66 kg. of cocaine, valued at US$700,000, in two separate operations. Oct. 27: US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials said that every week six metric tons of cocaine is shipped from Colombia to Guatemala for eventual delivery in the US. Oct. 28: Salvadoran officials reported confiscation of 2,997 kg. of cocaine, valued at US$101 million, from a Colombian ship at the port of Acajutla. The seizure was the largest in Salvadoran history. Six persons were arrested, including a French national and a Chilean citizen. Oct. 31: Carlos Herrera, Panama's deputy attorney general, described the Colombian border zone as a "drug trafficking sanctuary." In the first six months of the year, authorities arrested 414 Panamanians, 52 Colombians, six US nationals, and several Salvadorans, Jamaicans, and Chileans on trafficking charges. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry submitted a formal request to the Guatemalan government for "clarification" of circumstances surrounding the detention of Nicaraguan national Douglas Gadea Morales. Gadea, a Miami resident, was reportedly arrested Sept. 22 at the La Aurora airport in Guatemala City by US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents. In a letter addressed to the Guatemalan Supreme Court of Justice and to Human Rights Attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio, Gadea Morales said he and two other men were tortured by DEA agents Gustavo Alvarez and Maco Gonzalez to obtain confessions. On Sept. 24, Gadea said he was moved to Miami on board a US Coast Guard plane. Nov. 4: Nicaraguan police reported confiscation of 764 kg. of cocaine worth US$3.5 million in Managua, and the arrest of Enrique Miranda and four other persons on drug charges. The operation was described as the largest drug bust in Nicaraguan history. Nov. 5: Roger Mayorga, head of the Nicaraguan Criminal Investigation Division, reported that since April 1990, authorities had confiscated 1,400 kg. of cocaine. Nov. 6: Guatemalan Interior Minister Fernando Hurtado said the case of Nicaraguan national Douglas Gadea Morales was under investigation. According to Hurtado, Guatemalan security forces were not involved in Gadea's arrest and subsequent transport to the US. Daily newspaper Siglo XXI reported that Gadea Morales was one of the Cali (Colombia) drug mafia's top 10 leaders. The newspaper said an order for his arrest was issued in November 1990 by a court in southern Florida. Nov. 19: In Bogota (Colombia), Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose
Manuel Pacas and Colombian counterpart Luis Fernando Jaramillo finalized a bilateral cooperation agreement in anti-drug trafficking efforts. Nov. 22: Guatemalan Treasury Police spokespersons reported the seizure of a poppy plantation in San Marcos department worth US$1.6 million, and the arrest of three persons. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/03/91; Agence France-Presse, 09/20/91, 09/21/91, 10/01/91, 10/12/91, 10/28/91, 10/29/91, 11/04/91, 11/05/91, 11/19/91; ACAN-EFE, 09/20/91, 09/23/91, 10/21/91, 10/27/91, 10/31/91, 11/04-06/91, 11/22/91)

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