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Proposal For New Andean Pact To Reduce Narcotics Production

by Erika Harding

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According to Bolivian Bernardo Inch, president of the Commission on Narcotics Trafficking of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), production of cocaine and marijuana in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru continues to increase. Inch said that Colombian drug sales in 1990 totaled US\$1.5 billion, equal to 25% of export revenue. Bolivian drug income came to US \$900 million, or 35% of export income. Figures for Peru were US\$800 million and 80%, respectively. Coca leaf producers earn US\$500 for 250 kg., while cocaine base producers earn the same amount for 2.5 kg. of paste. Purified cocaine sells for about US\$5 million per kilogram. Inch said the world's drug money laundering centers are Los Angeles, Toronto, New York, Texas, Tijuana, the Cayman Islands, Panama, Uruguay, Nassau, Austria, Hong Kong, Vanuatu, and Nauru. Inch proposed the creation of the Andean Pact II following the model of the 1969 economic integration accord among Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Under the new pact, a multinational military force to combat drug traffickers would be created, drug consumption and production would be decriminalized, and crop substitution programs and strict regulatory mechanisms put in place to gradually reduce narcotics output. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, 10/27/91; Inter Press Service, 10/28/91)

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