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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
 THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

### U.S. House of Representatives

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
 NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL  
 ROOM H2-234, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX 2  
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July 18, 1985

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
 Secretary of Defense  
 Department of Defense  
 The Pentagon  
 Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Weinberger:

From two separate sources during the past 10 days, we have been informed that ~~U.S. Army~~ Special Forces based in Panama are beginning to train military counterparts in narcotic drug enforcement activity in a number of South American countries, presumedly the major producers.

One caller indicated that he had been informed that ~~the~~ President Bush and you are responsible for this new initiative. The same individual indicated that this was being carried out independently and without the knowledge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The need for the military of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to re-establish government control over large sections of those countries taken over by organized narcotics trafficking elements to produce marijuana, coca, coca paste and cocaine for distribution worldwide has long been recognized. This situation in Peru, Bolivia and Colombia has long been far beyond the power of the police authorities to bring under control.

Any training assistance our Army people can give the Armies of Peru, Bolivia and Colombia to enable them to reestablish government control over the drug producing sectors of those countries would seem to be very logical in much the same way as DEA for decades has trained their counterpart civilian police narcotics enforcement services. Now these police services can no longer function effectively in many parts of their countries because the territory is controlled by heavily armed and organized trafficking networks.

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The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
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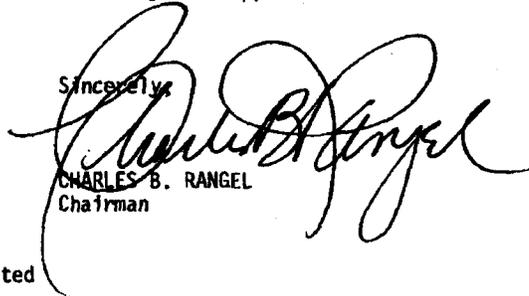
I would very much like to know whether this form of training is being provided, to whom and by whom. Also if it is, why has not DEA been made a part of this initiative as is alleged. We believe any U.S. Military programs to enhance narcotics control should be coordinated closely with DEA in view of its statutory role to coordinate our national enforcement action against the illicit narcotics traffic and to cooperate with counterparts abroad in campaigns against the illicit traffic in accordance with Article 35 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

I am seeking to verify this information so as I might be fully informed of our narcotics assistance efforts to South American countries in connection with a study mission I am leading to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay in August.

Your cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles B. Rangel'. The signature is written over the typed name and title.

CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable George Bush  
Vice President of the United  
States of America

The Honorable Jon R. Thomas  
Assistant Secretary of State for  
International Narcotics Matters

The Honorable John C. Lawn  
Acting Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration