

**TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION
May 5-8, 1998
Washington, D.C.**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.23
CICAD/doc.960/98
4 May 1998
Original: English**

**THE ANTI-DRUG MANDATE OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
BY BARRY R. McCAFFREY
WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 4, 1998**

The Anti-Drug Mandate of the Summit of the Americas
by Barry R. McCaffrey
Washington, D.C., Monday, May 4, 1998

It's a pleasure to be able to address this critically important Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) meeting. Just two weeks ago I had the honor to attend the Second Summit of the Americas in Santiago Chile in support of President Clinton. The cooperative spirit displayed at the Summit left all the participants extremely optimistic about what the future holds for our hemisphere. This new era of closer cooperation will make it possible for all of us to work together on issues such as trade, the environment, and education, as well as drugs. The United States looks forward to working with all the member states of CICAD, as equal partners, in taking the steps necessary to promptly implement the Summit mandate.

The drug problem in brief

The world is facing a pandemic of drug abuse that inflicts staggering costs on our societies. Illegal drugs kill and sicken our people, sap productivity, drain economies, threaten the environment, and undermine democratic institutions and international order. The United Nations Drug Control Program (LYNDACP) estimates the annual value of the international drug trade at five-hundred billion dollars.

To confront this menace in the United States, we have developed a comprehensive, balanced, and integrated national strategy consisting of five goals. Our first priority is to reduce the demand for illegal drugs: to educate our youth to reject illegal drugs and to reduce the health and social costs of illegal drug use. In support of this demand-reduction effort, the United States will spend over \$5 billion next year for drug prevention and treatment in schools and prisons; we must develop innovative approaches to breaking the cycle of drug abuse and crime. Presently, we are conducting a \$195 million mass media campaign to change the attitudes of adolescents towards drug abuse.

Efforts in the United States will have an effect on other nations. As we reduce demand for cocaine and heroin, traffickers will seek new markets. In the past two decades, the U.S. has reduced drug use by 50 percent while the global pandemic has been gathering force and expanding into other regions of the world. We have already seen how the heroin trade, which claims 810,000 addicts in the United States, counts among its ranks millions of new addicts in places like Europe, Pakistan, and China. The UNDCP documents that the United States now consumes only 2 percent of the world's heroin. Traffickers have taken note of the potential for increased global demand and are aggressively looking for new markets including what measures of effectiveness will be used, who will conduct the evaluation, and when the process will begin. These decisions must be reached soon if we are to maintain the momentum provided by the Santiago Summit. At the same time we need to be scrupulously

assured that this proceeds with full participation and approval by all CICAD members. This is not an initiative of one nation or by either just drug producing or consuming nations. This is an initiative by the entire hemisphere based on the realization that the drug threat affects all of us.

A number of models could be helpful in developing the new system, including the anti-money-laundering process used by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the G-8 group of the world's largest economies. Another potential guide for CICAD could be the U.S. performance measures of effectiveness recently developed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. But the United States is not here as an advocate of any particular model. We favor one which is fair, efficient, and measures the most relevant indicators of progress.

Many of our ideas for expanded multilateral cooperation are contained in the September 1997 *Reporte sobre Mejor Cooperación Multilateral para el Control de los Estupefacientes* which can be downloaded from our Website (<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/international/spanish/>). Clearly, CICAD must be the centerpiece of increasing multilateralism.

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and the U.S. Certification Process

Many questions have been asked about the U.S. view of this multilateral evaluation process and how it will affect other U.S. policies. Let me attempt to clarify some of these questions. Multilateral evaluation will not be in the near term a substitute for the U.S. certification process. Certification, under which the President is required to report on the counterdrug performance of each drug-producing or transit country, is the law of the land and will remain so until our Congress is persuaded to change it. However, we strongly believe that as the multilateral evaluation system gains utility and credibility, it will increasingly make irrelevant the U.S. unilateral certification process.

June UNGASS on Drug Control

The upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June will also be a useful forum in which to underscore the need for international cooperation against illegal drugs and related crimes. No region in the world can match either the commitment to confront illegal drugs or the accomplishments of the Western hemisphere. We look forward to citing the examples of the hemispheric CICAD drug-control strategy, multilateral counterdrug cooperation in the Andean Ridge, cooperation against trafficking in the Caribbean, and the Mexican-U.S. High Level Contact Group as examples to be studied during this upcoming UN session.

Conclusion--Getting Started

The Santiago Summit set ambitious goals for the hemisphere. Meeting these goals will not be easy, but neither should we let our ambitious objectives deter us

from getting started. Let us take the first steps first, and move forward in a deliberate, reasonable fashion. CICAD's.