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LIB: SESOA
DOCID: 0199

INL: SHINSON
11/29/96
INL: JBECKER

PHONE: 647-0437

ARA: PROMERO
S/P: YTHAYER
P: DGOLDWYN
NSC:

PA: TMALINOWSKI
GJDANIES
S/S:
S/S-O:

IMMEDIATE

MONTEVIDEO

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TAGS: SNAR, OAS

JB *JA*
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FOR SIGNING OF
ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IN THE HEMISPHERE

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1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY
PRESIDENT CLINTON WHICH AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO READ
ON OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE "ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IN
THE HEMISPHERE" ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1996.

2. BACKGROUND: THE DECLARATION OF THE MIAMI SUMMIT OF
THE AMERICAS IN DECEMBER 1994 INCLUDED AN AGREEMENT,
PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES, THAT PARTICIPANTS DEFINE
A COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY FOR THE HEMISPHERE.
DISCUSSION AMONG THE HEMISPHERE'S NATIONS SINCE THEN HAS
LED TO APPROVAL OF AN ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IN THE
HEMISPHERE WHICH WILL ENABLE OUR HEMISPHERE TO
EFFECTIVELY CONFRONT THIS SCOURGE AS WE MOVE INTO THE
21ST CENTURY. THE AGREEMENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE
EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE OAS COMMISSION AGAINST ILLICIT
DRUG ABUSE (OAS/CICAD). AT THE INVITATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUMMIT
GOVERNMENTS WILL RECONVENE ON DECEMBER 3 IN URUGUAY TO
SIGN THIS STRATEGY.

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3. THE STRATEGY DESCRIBES THE COMMITMENT OF THE SUMMIT GOVERNMENTS TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF NATIONAL ACTIONS AGAINST ALL ASPECTS OF ABUSE, PRODUCTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ILLICIT DRUGS. IT'S FOCUS IS THE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL GOVERNMENTS TO ACT AGAINST A COMMON THREAT. THIS IS AN HISTORIC STEP IN ADVANCING OUR COMMON SUMMIT AND INTERNATIONAL ANTI-NARCOTICS OBJECTIVES.

4. SINCE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE REPRESENTED BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON RECOGNIZING THE STRATEGY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SIGNING.

5. BEGIN TEXT: AT THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN MIAMI IN DECEMBER 1994, I JOINED WITH THE OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE OF THIS HEMISPHERE IN COMMITTING OUR GOVERNMENTS TO DEFINE A STRATEGY FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION TO PROTECT OUR NATIONS AND PEOPLE FROM THE COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE OF ILLICIT DRUGS.

THE NEED FOR SUCH A STRATEGY AS WE APPROACH THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WAS ^{evident} ~~MANIFEST~~ TO US ALL. DRUG ABUSE AND ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE ARE A MAJOR ~~PROBLEM~~ CHALLENGE FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE REGION. PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT DRUGS FOSTER CORRUPTION, FINANCE TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, AND DISRUPT AND DISTORT THE ECONOMIES OF COUNTRIES AFFLICTED BY THESE ACTIVITIES. CRIMINAL GROUPS THAT INFLICT SUCH DAMAGE ON OUR COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE NEITHER NATIONAL FRONTIERS NOR THE LAWS OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES. THEY ARE A TRANSNATIONAL MENACE, WHICH WE CAN ONLY CONFRONT ON A COOPERATIVE, HEMISPHERIC BASIS.

THE ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IN THE HEMISPHERE THAT WE ARE SIGNING HERE TODAY OUTLINES STEPS TO FULFILL OUR PLEDGE IN MIAMI. IT ESTABLISHES THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH OUR NATIONS CAN JOIN TO MEET OUR COMMON RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THE SCOURGE OF ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFIC AND ABUSE. IT DEFINES SPECIFIC MEASURES BY WHICH WE WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT REFLECTS THE STRENGTH AND UNANIMITY OF OUR COMMITMENT TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO DEFEAT THIS INSIDIOUS EVIL.

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I EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEMISPHERE GOVERNMENTS AS THEY SIGN THIS HISTORIC NEW COOPERATIVE STRATEGY. THE MANY OFFICIALS OF MANY GOVERNMENTS WHOSE DEDICATED EFFORTS OVER NEARLY TWO YEARS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT DESERVE THE GRATITUDE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR HEMISPHERE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THE PRODUCTION, TRAFFIC AND ABUSE OF ILLICIT DRUGS. WE PLEDGE NOW TO DEDICATE OURSELVES TO IMPLEMENT WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED, AS OUR HEMISPHERE APPROACHES THE DAWN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. END TEXT.
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