

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

5/3

To:

Don Kerrick

From:

The Staff Secretary.

For inclusion in updated
briefings for President re: Mexico
if you see fit.

Nevertheless, response should
be drafted.

Phil Cople

Chen

FAX from ...

Senator Dianne Feinstein

of California

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

TO:

Mack McLarty

FROM:

Dianne Feinstein

COMMENTS:

Please see that the President sees this letter.

Thank you.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 4

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Although we disagreed with your decision to certify Mexico as fully cooperative with U.S. counternarcotics efforts, we sensed during our negotiations with members of your Administration that you agree that there remains vast room for improvement in Mexico's battle against drug trafficking. We look forward to sending you a version of H.J.Res. 58 that you can sign, and to receiving the report required by that resolution, which will help us judge how much progress Mexico has made.

We understand that you intend to use your upcoming trip to Mexico to press for significant improvements in Mexico's counterdrug performance. We fully support you in this undertaking. In order to be effective, it is crucial that you speak plainly about the shortcomings in Mexico's performance, as well as acknowledging the best efforts of President Zedillo and others Mexicans.

The version of H.J.Res. 58 passed by the Senate lists 10 specific areas of Mexico's counternarcotics efforts in which we hope to see "significant and demonstrable progress" between now and September 1, 1997. We urge you to raise each and every one of these issues with President Zedillo, and to assure him that the United States views progress in these areas as essential to any meaningful measure of cooperation from our most important ally in the war on drug trafficking.

We hope and expect that in the days and weeks following your trip, we will be able to point to tangible progress in Mexico's performance. While it would be unrealistic to expect every goal listed in the Senate resolution to be achieved in short order, we do believe that significant gains are possible in the following areas:

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- **Cartels:** The Mexican government should be able to take significant action against the leading drug trafficking organizations, including arrests and prosecution or extradition of their leaders, and seizure of their assets.
- **Extraditions:** While Mexico has taken steps to allow the extradition of Mexican nationals, they have yet to extradite any Mexican nationals to the United States on drug-related charges. There are at least 13 outstanding requests for such individuals. This is the minimum level of cooperation that should be expected from an ally in the war on drugs.
- **Law Enforcement Cooperation:** Mexico should undertake to fully fund and deploy the Binational Border Task Forces, which they have not done to date. In addition, U.S. law enforcement officers working drugs in Mexico need to be granted the rights to take appropriate measures to defend themselves. We owe our dedicated law enforcement agents to demand no less.
- **Money-Laundering:** We are anxious to see Mexico fully implement the money laundering laws and regulations that have been enacted and issued within the last several months. If enforced properly, they will result in prosecutions, convictions, and the seizure of money launderers' assets.
- **Corruption:** The decision to abolish the National Institute for Combating Drugs (INCD) and replace it with a new agency known as the Special Prosecutor's Office for Attention to Drug Crimes is an admission that the INCD had become hopelessly compromised by corruption. We need to see evidence that the new agency will not simply be a retread of the INCD, and Mexico needs to attack corruption in the federal police and the military with equal vigor.
- **Air and Maritime Cooperation:** A maritime agreement between the United States and Mexico that would allow U.S. patrol vessels to conduct hot pursuit of drug trafficking ships into Mexican waters is long overdue. In addition, it is important that Mexico expand upon the single radar station it established in 1991 at San Cristobal to disrupt the flow of drugs flown into Mexico. The Mexican government has detailed plans to deploy a

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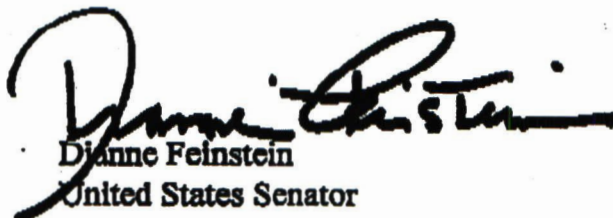
broader surveillance system, as you and President Zedillo agreed was needed in October 1995. It is time to put these plans into action.

Mr. President, the scourge of drugs in tearing apart our cities and endangering our children. The need for genuine and comprehensive cooperation from Mexico in combating drug trafficking is more urgent than ever. We wish you well in your efforts to secure meaningful manifestations of this cooperation, and we look forward to learning about what has been achieved on your trip.

Sincerely,



Paul Coverdell
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator