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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 9 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Having forwarded the letter dated 26 March 1981 addressed to you by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Bolivia, Dr. Mario Rolón Anaya, and a copy of the Bolivian appeal to the international community for an effective campaign against narcotics traffic, I have the honour to request that both communications be distributed as official documents of the General Assembly under item 12 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando ORTIZ SANZ
Ambassador

* A/36/50.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 26 March 1981 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs and Worship of Bolivia addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you my Government's concern for an effective campaign against the traffic in drugs, the terrifying significance of which has been repeatedly condemned by the international community.

In order to eliminate the activities of individuals and groups involved in this harmful traffic, my Government has given instructions for general mobilization against this scourge and has established a National Committee under the responsibility of the Armed Forces, in addition to establishing the organizations listed herein, together with the relevant legal provisions for their functioning.

I believe it necessary, however, to underscore the special features of the economic and social structure of Bolivia. The scarcity of resources makes it difficult for the Government to carry out crop substitution in the short term since there would be a danger of creating a serious social problem in the countryside. Furthermore, the operations control machinery available to the Armed and Public Order Forces, despite the great efforts carried out and the significant successes obtained, would not be fully effective owing to the lack of technical and economic resources required by a large-scale operation.

This explains the need to appeal to the international community, since Bolivia cannot fight alone against such ignoble but substantial multinational interests. My country hopes that the United Nations will study ways of providing Bolivia with the co-operation essential to enabling it to eradicate not only the traffic in narcotics but also the plantations, without provoking serious social conflicts.

This is not the first time that my country has communicated with you about an unpleasant matter of concern to us. In his note of 20 February 1981, our Permanent Representative, Ambassador Fernando Ortiz Sanz, recalling resolution 35/195 of 15 December 1980, in the formulation and discussion of which the delegation of Bolivia had actively participated, requested the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or any other body, to co-operate with the Government of Bolivia, on a large scale and urgently, with a view to carrying out successfully the campaign against the clandestine production of cocaine. You replied to that note on 25 February indicating that the Bolivian communication had been forwarded to the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. On the same date, through another communication you were informed of the campaign undertaken.

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Bolivia formally requests, through you, that the United Nations, through its relevant machinery and on the basis of programmes adopted in that respect by the technical specialized agencies, accede to the appeal which the Government of National Reconstruction of the Armed Forces is submitting in this note. We would hope for the establishment of a Special Emergency Fund whose administration, as well as the execution of measures for the elimination of the traffic of drugs in the national territory, would be co-ordinated by the United Nations jointly with the Bolivian Government, and in close collaboration with those countries affected by a similar problem.

Bolivia trusts that the measures already adopted, together with the external co-operation which their execution requires, will serve to overcome this situation, which affects a large part of mankind and unjustly and grievously damages the image of the country. A developing country such as Bolivia, with urgent problems to be solved to overcome its backwardness and dependency, cannot merely be left to its fate. The magnitude of the undertaking and the perilous nature of the evil which we are attempting to correct are beyond our possibilities and make effective international co-operation essential.

I take this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Dr. Mario ROLÓN ANAYA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Worship

ANNEX II

Bolivian appeal to the world community for an effective
campaign against narcotics traffic

The Bolivian nation,

In view of the frightening expansion of narcotics traffic promoted and financed internationally, which is reaching truly anti-human proportions;

In view of the limited means of combating the criminal activities of the powerful transnational drug traffic system;

In view of the infamous distortion of the facts by petty political interests whose perverse expansion on an international scale affects not only individuals but also the entire Bolivian nation, and other Latin American countries;

Having studied exhaustively and having become fully aware of the enormous and serious human, social, economic, political and international consequences of narcotics traffic;

The Government of National Reconstruction, having decided on a general mobilization of the country against narcotics traffic and consequently, having established a National Campaign Committee under the direction of the Armed Forces;

Considering that narcotics traffic has been going on for many years and was in existence even before the assumption of power by the Government of National Reconstruction, which has resolved to eradicate it and has put forward strenuous economic efforts in a period of severe depression of the price of tin, the Bolivian State's main product;

Aware of the economic inadequacy of these efforts in the face of the international power and scope and enormous financial scale of the drug traffic;

The Government of the Republic of Bolivia,

DECLARES:

A state of emergency for combating the drug traffic, which is becoming a national disaster; and, consequently,

INVITES:

The co-operation of all countries engaged in the production and consumption of drugs, through their specialized bodies, since this co-operation has already been given in the past through international actions in support of the efforts of a number of countries of the world which have suffered the scourge of opium and traffic in psychotropic substances.

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REQUESTS:

International financial aid on a scale adequate to allow the establishment of an international control agency designed to limit and replace the traditional coca-leaf crop. For this purpose, it invokes all the relevant international agreements, especially the 1931 and 1936 Geneva agreements and the 1931 Bangkok agreement, the "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs" of New York, 25 March 1961, the 1972 United Nations Conference and United Nations resolution 35/195.

APPEALS:

To the United Nations and all the organizations within its system to adopt the following measures immediately:

1. To establish an International Committee for the Campaign against Narcotics Traffic, co-ordinated with the one established by Bolivia.
2. To vote in favour of an emergency fund commensurate with the magnitude of the problem, keeping in mind that one country alone spends around \$US 2,000,000,000 (two billion US dollars) annually for the rehabilitation of drug victims.
3. To establish as soon as possible a multinational coca control agency with the broadest possible financing.
4. To convene a World Anti-Drug Conference in 1981, after the necessary emergency measures have been adopted, so that ongoing programmes may duly be evaluated and joint plans adopted.
