

4923

8

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RP
Comment 2/7
Con
chances of
effective action
by Lopez
Michelesen
next steps
for U.S.)

To Zbig -

J

→ Pastor

TOP SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 26, 1977

Zbig Brzezinski ✓

NLC Review Completed.

The attached was returned in
the President's outbox. It is
forwarded to you for appropriate
handling.

DOJ Review Completed.

State Dept. review completed

Rick Hutcheson

cc: Peter Bourne

RE: BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT
LOPEZ-MICHELESEN

8A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

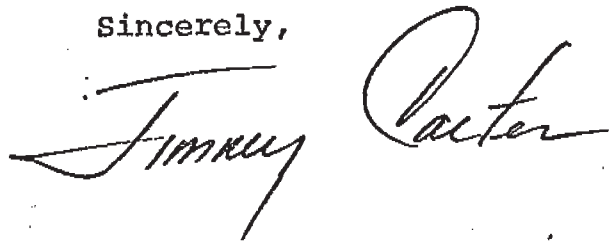
July 26, 1977

Dear Mr. President:

Dr. Peter Bourne has reported to me on your recent meetings and on the considerable progress that we have been able to accomplish together since Rosalynn's visit, in dealing with the problem of drug abuse.

I think you can be proud of the aggressive steps you have taken to deal with the effects of trafficking in Colombia, a task that I know is not easy. I want you to be aware of my appreciation and that of the people of the United States for the strong leadership you have demonstrated, and my desire to continue to work closely with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

His Excellency
Alfonso Lopez Michelsen
President of the Republic
of Colombia
Bogota

TOP SECRET

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ^{8B}

THE WHITE HOUSE

4913

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter Bourne ^{P.B.}

SUBJECT: Briefing of President Lopez-Michelsen

25X1 The promised briefing was conducted by Peter Bensinger, Administrator of D.E.A., [redacted] and myself. We were accompanied by Robert Drexler the Charge d' Affaires. President Lopez-Michelsen was alone.

The material had been very carefully prepared and checked, and Peter Bensinger did an excellent job in presenting it in a low key and non-accusatory way. We left behind a written copy of the briefing without any identification as to its source. The President did not flinch at any of the information we provided. When we reached Defense Minister General Abraham Varon Valencia, Lopez-Michelsen questioned us closely as to whether we had other information that we might not have written down because it was not solid. He said that at different times there were rumors Varon was trying to overthrow him, was smuggling Scotch whiskey, and involved in other illicit activities. Because of the changing nature of the rumors and the lack of hard evidence he sometimes questioned whether any of it was true. As he talked more I had the feeling that he not only wanted us to know that he knew a good deal more about Varon than we did, but that this was the one person on the list he could not move against directly.

At the end of the briefing he said that since our previous visit he had made considerable investigations on his own, and had been amazed at the degree of corruption, not merely around the drug issue, but also in connection with terrorist kidnappings and ransom payments. In one instance members of the National Police had even served as an execution squad for a kidnap victim. He described F-2, one of the National Law Enforcement Agencies, as "a nest of criminals".

He was extraordinarily candid and open in talking about the problems he faced. He reacted only with appreciation for the material we gave him, adding that he feared it represented only 10 per cent of the problem. It is clear also, that he plans to move aggressively against these people. He thanked me profusely

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter Bourne

SUBJECT: Briefing of President Lopez-Michelsen

for the helicopters and the team we sent down there after the meeting to study the feasibility of spraying the marijuana fields. He said he plans to completely reorganize the National Law Enforcement Agencies and establish a special elite unit of loyal, well paid people of high integrity reporting directly to the Attorney General. (A formal announcement of this move was in the Bogota newspapers yesterday morning).

In summary I believe this is a tired embattled old man depressed by his failure to accomplish more than 20 per cent of his administrations original program, who is not particularly popular with the people, and who was badly stung by accusations that his sons were involved in illicit financial transactions. I think he had planned to drift through his remaining year in office. Now, I believe, the interest you and Rosalynn have taken in him has lighted a fire under him and given him the energy, clear goals and inspiration to try to redeem himself in the time he has left. We have also placed in his hands some powerful weapons. He said that the top objectives for the remainder of his administration will be crime, and corruption especially as it relates to drugs. I think he is very sincere, and Drexler said that he has never seen him so animated and filled with life. It will remain to be seen whether he is up to the task.

I thought it might be nice if you sent him a letter along the lines of the attached draft.

PGB:ss

c.c. Rosalynn Carter

Attachment

TOP SECRET

CLASSIFICATION:

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**

4923
8C

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
REFERRAL

Date: July 26, 1977
NSC log # 7704913

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN
From: THE PRESIDENT
Date: July 26, 1977
Subject: Presidential Correspondance

ACTION REQUESTED:

Draft reply for: President's Signature
 White House Staff
 Other _____
 Direct reply Furnish info copy
 Dispatch Translation
 Recommendations / Comments Appropriate Handling
 Other Information

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

for CHRISTINE DODSON
STAFF SECRETARY

8D

SC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

FROM		TO			LHM NUMBER
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	
7	23	7	26	19	7704923

INITIAL ACTION
PASTOR

TO: PRES XXX
BRZEZINSKI
AARON
DODSON

FROM: ~~SECRETARY~~ Bourne, P
SECDEF
DCI
STATE EXSEC

S/S _____

UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT
LOU NO FORN
C EYES ONLY
S CODEWORD
TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Status Report on DEA Briefing of Pres Lopez Michelsen & Copy of Pres Letter to Lopez Michelsen

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION				REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
ADV CYS	ACTION	CONCUR/ COMMENTS	INFO		
B'ZINSKI/AARON					MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT
STAFF SECRETARY					MEMO FOR MR BRZEZINSKI
CONGRESSIONAL					REPLY FOR
ECONOMIC					APPROPRIATE ACTION
EUR/CANADA					MEMO TO
FAR EAST					RECOMMENDATIONS
INTELLIGENCE					JOINT MEMO
PEOPLE'S REP. OF CHINA					REFER TO FOR
MID EAST/NO. AFRICA					ANY ACTION NECESSARY?
SOUTH/SOUTH ISSUES					CONCURRENCE OR COMMENTS
SECURITY ANALYSIS					DUE DATE:
GLOBAL ISSUES					COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CRISIS MGMT					Bourne memo has been noted by the President

DATE	FROM	TO	STATUS	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	DUE	CY TO
7/26			----	PRES SGD LTR TO LOPEZ MICHELSEN		
7/26		PASTOR	S	PREPARE MEMO FOR BRZEZINSKI	7/30	
7/26				Joined by 7704913		
7/27	Pastor	NSC/S	C	FBI - JF		

DISPATCH _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

7704912

M/F/D	BY	IF
		NS DV