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Office of the Prime Minister

Jamaica House
Kingston

September 5, 1989

The Honorable Bill Lehman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lehman:

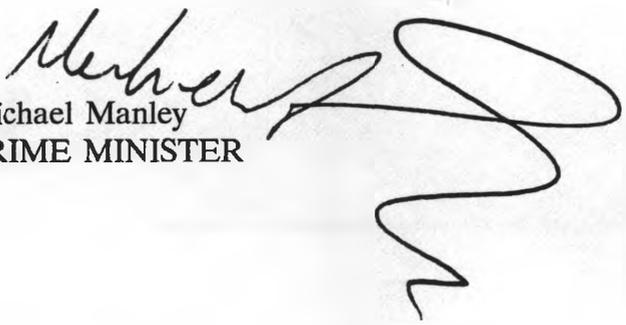
Recent events in Colombia bring into dramatic focus the monumental proportions of the crises we face in the struggle against drugs in the Latin-American and Caribbean region.

Earlier this year, it became clear to me that the region was on the verge of a major crisis if we did not act decisively and quickly. In response to this, I introduced, at the start of my administration, a series of multilateral proposals to fight the drug menace. These proposals included centralized intelligence, training for narcotics agents, education, rehabilitation and economic development to provide alternatives to the poverty stricken growers of plants that are the basis of the different drugs. It also included the creation of a Multilateral Strike Force as a last resort to combat the drug armies.

I am gratified by the response of the United States Congress and Senate to these proposals and wish to thank you for the personal interest you have shown in this initiative. Given the most recent developments, I have elaborated on my initial proposals which I am sending to you for your review and reaction.

I believe it is a programme which is desperately needed to begin the counter-attack against the drug cartels in this region and worldwide. I hope when Congress reconvenes you will consider such proposals as part of a regional response to the major challenge we all now face.

Sincerely,


Michael Manley
PRIME MINISTER

MULTILATERAL DRUG PROPOSAL

Considerable attention has been given to the multilateral strike force aspect of my proposal for international action in relation to drugs. This is misleading, for, while it is a critically important issue, the strike force is only one component of a comprehensive international strategy which I am proposing to combat this scourge. I therefore set out the elements of this broader proposal, which is gathering support throughout the Caribbean, in the United States and in countries like Venezuela and Spain.

- (1) We will introduce a Resolution into the United Nations calling for the creation of an international capability in various areas of the drug struggle and inviting particular countries to become signatories and to pledge support and finance.

It is to be noted that the U.S. Senate has already voted unanimously for a Resolution approving the idea and inviting the U.S. Administration to provide funds now allocated to the U.N. system to assist in the financing of this idea.
- (2) Acting under the Resolution, to set up an organisation devoted to the development of the

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following capabilities:

- i) a central intelligence-gathering operation which would collate and coordinate all information on drug trafficking worldwide including financial flows which are a principal means of tracking the operations of the drug cartels;
- ii) A training facility devoted to
 - (a) narcotics agents in both the investigative and interdiction aspects, and
 - (b) agents trained in narcotics intelligence.
- (iii) A reserve pool of narcotics agents and intelligence operatives with experience in different parts of the world.

This pool could be used to make available to countries with inadequate resources in this field, on-the-ground support for specified periods of time.

This reserve capability would be particularly valuable for countries which are having their own people undergo training and would help strengthen the anti-drug operations in different countries while they are training

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to increase the effectiveness of their operations.

(iv) A division devoted to public education and other elements of the demand management side of the drug operations. There is a growing body of experience in different parts of the world about drug education in schools, in communities and in more general public relations programmes. A means of cross-fertilising research and knowledge in this field and having small groups of experts who could go to countries with the will to tackle this aspect of the matter could be invaluable.

(v) A central body of expertise in the mounting and maintenance of rehabilitation programmes. Already this aspect of the matter receives attention from a U.N. Agency with headquarters in Geneva.

A technical question would be whether to leave this under its present auspices or incorporate it into a single programme even if its headquarters remain in Geneva. I happen to favour the second course of action.

(vi) A central source of advice in the planning and administration of income substitution

programmes./

programmes. This could include levels of support that would make even seed finance available.

This programme is also in existence with headquarters in Geneva and receives considerable financial support, particularly from the Government of Italy.

Alternative sources of income for peasants who have spent their lives taking their children through the production of the ganja plant or the coca leaf, deserve and need help in adjusting after eradication programmes and in any event, represent a huge potential source of passionate opposition to any anti-drug operation.

- (vii) A multilateral strike force under U.N. command and consisting of specially trained military personnel having regard for the nature of the drug operations which have reached the scale of virtually civil war or gang operations beyond the capacity of local security forces to handle.

Apart from the opportunity this would provide for developing appropriated expertise in this kind of fighting, the great advantage of the multilateral strike force is that it gets

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around the problem of sovereignty. For example, both the Colombian and the United States Governments have hesitated long over the question of whether to invite U.S. troops to help the Colombian Forces fight the Medellin cartel. In the end, both Governments retreat from the idea because the troops of a foreign power would immediately provoke a controversy about sovereignty. No such difficulty would arise if a Government were to invite a multilateral strike force under the United Nations command and sponsorship.

It is to be understood that all of these facilities which would be developed from small beginnings and grow as commitment, resources and experience expand, would be subject to the overriding principle that assistance would only be in response to a formal request from the Government of a particular country.

This plan has been introduced and won the support of CARICOM, received the unanimous backing in principle from both the Senate and House in Washington, has been endorsed in principle by the Presidents of Venezuela and Spain, and will be introduced at the Non-Aligned Summit and at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in September and October of this year, respectively. It will be introduced as a formal Resolution in the United Nations immediately after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.