

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Mexico - President Echeverria” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 27, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Narcotics: Proposed Response to Letter  
from President Echeverria to President  
Ford

Memorandum of January 23, 1976, transmitted the original of a letter from President Luis Echeverria of Mexico to President Ford proposing the establishment of parallel Mexico and US Commissions to deal with the narcotics problem. Attached is the Department's proposed response for President Ford.

The response welcomes President Echeverria's initiative as an important proposal. It endorses the idea of parallel organizations similar to each other, while allowing President Ford flexibility in organizational arrangements that might be established on our side to collaborate with the Mexican Commission. It directs attention at the effort against narcotics currently underway in Mexico as the primary immediate concern. It informs President Echeverria of measures being taken to improve effectiveness in the US against narcotics traffic coming across the border, and against contraband moving into Mexico. It recognizes the importance of President Echeverria's proposal to include prevention and rehabilitation, with law enforcement, in the strategy against narcotics. Along these lines it promises concrete proposals for action in response to President Echeverria's initiative. Finally, it expresses gratitude for the goodwill extended President Ford's representatives in Mexico.

*George S. Springsteen*  
George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Proposed response.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
GDS

lh 3/6/04



MICROFILM	DATA
DO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FEB 12 1976	
SEARCHED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INDEXED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10

Proposed Response

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative, and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed the White House staff to begin now with the departments of government to consider ways in which we should organize ourselves to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel organizations, in general similar to each other, seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development which can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us will depend in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts

His Excellency  
Luis Echeverria Alvarez,  
President of the  
United Mexican States,  
Los Pinos,  
Mexico, D.F.,  
Mexico.




already underway; the effect of this new initiative will be felt over the longer term. Thus, I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government, and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our effectiveness in the United States against the narcotics traffic coming across the border and against contraband moving from this side into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for the two sides to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.

I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation aspects of the narcotic problem, as well as the law enforcement aspect. As you know, the concept of a federal program which balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the cornerstone of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will include full representation of all aspects of the drug program.

Along these lines, I expect to have shortly concrete proposals for action on our part to match the



new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to assure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and goodwill you and members of your Government have consistently extended to my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain the spirit of close collaboration between our two countries.

With all best regards,

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Department of State



2A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed my staff to consider on an urgent basis the most effective way to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel and similar organizations seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development that can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our short-term success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. This new initiative will strengthen our cooperation over the longer term. I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our own effectiveness in dealing with the narcotics traffic coming into the United States from Mexico and the contraband moving from the United States into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for our governments to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.

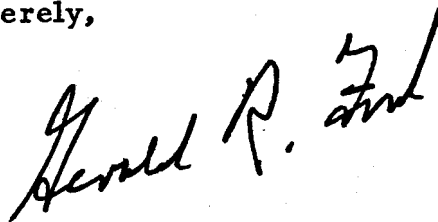


I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation, as well as law enforcement, aspects of the narcotics problem. The concept of a federal program that balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the basis of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will deal fully with all aspects of the drug program.

In the near future I expect to have concrete proposals for action to match the new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to ensure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your government have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain a close collaboration between our two countries on this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "F".

His Excellency Luis Echeverria Alvarez  
President of Mexico  
Palacio Nacional  
Mexico D. F.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date: Feb. 7, 1976  
NSC log # 7600473

MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: Luis Echeverria Alvarez, President of Mexico  
From: President Ford  
Date: Feb. 6, 1976  
Subject: Pres letter to Pres of Mexico for dispatch

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Draft reply for:	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Signature
	<input type="checkbox"/> White House Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Furnish info copy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations / Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Handling
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Information

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: Re: S/S #7601384

*Michael J. Inata*  
for Jeanne W. Davis  
Staff Secretary



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

February 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

SUBJECT: Narcotics: Response to Letter  
from Mexican President Echeverria

President Echeverria has written you expressing concern over the illegal traffic in dangerous narcotics and proposing establishment of parallel Mexican and U.S. commissions to deal with the broad problem of narcotics use and traffic (Tab B). President Echeverria's letter followed a recent discussion on narcotics with Ambassador Jova and Congressmen Lester L. Wolff (D., N. Y.) and Benjamin A. Gilman (R., N. Y.).

President Echeverria proposes the establishment of twin national commissions that could undertake parallel studies of all aspects of the drug abuse problem, propose new lines of action and expand coordination between our two countries. He believes each national commission could be composed of officials of the executive and legislative branches as well as representatives of the mass communications media and the public. He further states that he is proceeding to establish a Mexican commission along these lines.

In conjunction with the concerned federal agencies, the Domestic Council, OMB and NSC have begun a study of the Mexican proposal to determine how we can best take advantage of Echeverria's initiatives and assure, to the greatest degree possible, Mexican cooperation in the struggle against illicit narcotics. We will soon forward to you our recommendations on how we can best use existing drug commissions to parallel the one being organized by Echeverria.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)*Wa 3/6/04*

In the interim I recommend that you respond in a warm fashion to Echeverria's letter. The suggested response at Tab A indicates that you have established a task force to consider ways in which we should organize ourselves to collaborate closely with the commission he is establishing. The proposed response also underscores the importance you attach to measures our governments are already taking, both separately and together.

The Domestic Council and OMB concur in this memorandum. Bob Orben's office has cleared the text of the letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Echeverria at Tab A.



Tab 7 Ford to T 1230  
213  
20  
MH  
MH  
304  
well

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

473

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

ACTION  
January 27, 1976

Tab A  
Retyped  
retyped 2/12

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT ←

FROM: Hal Horan *HH*

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence: Proposed Reply to Letter from Mexican President Echeverria on Narcotics

President Echeverria has written President Ford, subsequent to a meeting in Mexico City with Congressmen Wolff and Gilman, proposing increased cooperation between our two governments in the narcotics field and the establishment of parallel national commissions that would be charged with coming up with new initiatives to combat drug abuse (Tab B). Echeverria indicates he is proceeding now with the establishment of his own commission.

Representatives of the Domestic Council, OMB, NSC and the State Department agree that the President should respond in a warm fashion to President Echeverria's proposal and inform him we have under review how best we might establish a form of commission parallel to that being established by Echeverria. At the same time, however, we should avoid creating yet another "drug commission", to add to the existing Strategy Council on Drug Abuse, Advisory Council on Drug Abuse (HEW), Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control, and soon-to-be-created Cabinet Committee on Drug Abuse Prevention.

Current thinking is that responsibility for the tasks suggested by Echeverria would be given to the Strategy Council on Drug Abuse, which the White Paper on Drug Abuse recommended be revitalized, adding the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs as a member and as chairman. (Membership presently includes State, Defense, Justice, HEW, and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Under the terms of the Executive Order now being prepared for the President's consideration, the Adviser for National Security Affairs and the Secretary of the Treasury would also be added to the Strategy Council.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

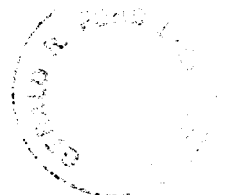
*HH 2/6/04*



Pending a definitive reply, it is recommended that the President acknowledge Echeverria's letter in positive, but general, terms, and I have attached a suggested text (Tab A). The Domestic Council (Dick Parsons), OMB (Ed Johnson), and Steve Low concur in this memo. Bob Orben's office has cleared the text of the letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to the President the memorandum at Tab I.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. -53852  
DT/BP  
Spanish

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Mexico 00629  
January 16, 1976  
Fm Amembassy Mexico  
To Secstate Wash DC

Subject: Letter to President Ford from President Echeverría on narcotics cooperation

1. Following is text of letter from President Echeverría for President Ford on Narcotics Cooperation.

2. Quote. Mr. President: Messrs. Lester L. Wolff and Benjamin A. Gilman, distinguished members of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, accompanied by His Excellency Joseph John Jova, your country's Ambassador to Mexico, paid me a visit last Wednesday, January 7, at which time we took up, among other subjects, the matter of the increase in drug abuse in the United States and in the illegal traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances between our two countries.

3. In view of the importance and seriousness of the problem, I asked Messrs. Wolff and Gilman to meet with me again, which we did last Saturday, January 10, with the Attorney General of the Republic, the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Public Education, and Health and Welfare, as well as the Director of the Mexican Center of Drug Addiction Studies, who has charge of coordinating preventive, curative, and rehabilitation activities in that field.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



4. As a result of those talks, it was possible to confirm the evident interaction that exists between supply and demand and the complexity of the problem and of its solution which takes in widely varying sociological aspects, involving educational factors--including those relating to mass communications media--health factors, and of course action directed toward the prosecution of crimes against health.

5. It was recognized also that in recent years, with strict respect for the sovereignty of each State, there has been effective cooperation between the two Governments which has made it possible to obtain excellent results in the struggle against the drug traffic and the use and abuse of illicit drugs. Nonetheless, it is necessary to increase our joint action in order to obtain still better results.

6. I put forward to the U.S. legislators the idea of creating twin national commissions, one in each of our countries, which would undertake a study of all aspects of this question and propose solutions that would enable our two Governments to embark on new lines of action and expand the coordination of their efforts.

7. In my opinion each national commission might be composed of officials of the Executive Branch responsible for the prosecution of crimes against health, the elimination of the illicit use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs, and the cure and rehabilitation of the victims of drug addiction. Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the respective Congresses, as well as representatives of family heads and of the mass communications media would also be invited to participate in the commissions.

8. Each national commission would study the problem and recommend actions, which would be discussed at meetings of the two commissions. The commissions should establish machinery that would ensure the efficacy and celerity of their work, possibly through executive committees. The frequency of their meetings would be agreed upon according to their work requirements.

9. For my part, I am proceeding to establish the Mexican Commission pursuant to the terms stated above, in the understanding that my Government will continue to act intensively in the fight against the traffic in narcotics and other aspects of this problem, maintaining, as it has done hitherto, the close coordination existing between the competent agencies and organs of our two Governments.

10. In view of the foregoing, I take pleasure in proposing that you consider the desirability of establishing a United States Commission for the purposes stated above, which would be in contact with the Mexican Commission on a standing basis.

11. Feeling certain, as I do, that this proposal on a matter of such extreme importance to mankind will merit your sympathetic response, I take this occasion to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration and personal esteem. End quote.

Jova

# Presidente de México

Palacio Nacional, a 12 de enero de 1976.

Señor Presidente:

Los señores Lester L. Wolff y Benjamin H. Gilman, distinguidos miembros de la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos de América, acompañados por el Excelentísimo señor Joseph John Jova, Embajador de su país en México, me hicieron una visita el pasado miércoles 7 en la que, entre otros temas, abordamos el relativo al aumento en el abuso de las drogas en la Unión Americana y en el tráfico ilícito de estupefacientes y sustancias psicotrópicas entre nuestros dos países.

En virtud de la importancia y gravedad del problema, les pedí a los señores Wolff y Gilman que nos volviéramos a reunir, lo que hicimos el pasado sábado 10, en esta ocasión con el Procurador General de la República y los señores Secretarios de Relaciones Exteriores, de Educación Pública, y de Salubridad y Asistencia, así como con el Director del Centro Mexicano de Estudios en Farmacodependencia, que tiene a su cargo coordinar las actividades preventivas, curativas y de rehabilitación en esa materia.

Como consecuencia de estas pláticas se pudo confirmar la interacción evidente que existe entre la oferta y la

demanda y la

Al Excelentísimo Señor Gerald R. Ford,  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América,  
Washington, D. C.



# Presidente de México

- 2 -

demanda y la complejidad del problema y de su solución que abarca aspectos sociológicos muy variados; los que involucran factores educativos —incluyendo los relacionados con los medios de comunicación masiva— sanitarios y, por supuesto las acciones tendientes a la persecución de los delitos contra la salud.

Se reconoció asimismo que en los últimos años, con estricto respeto a la soberanía de cada Estado, ha existido una efectiva cooperación entre los dos Gobiernos que ha permitido obtener resultados relevantes en la lucha contra el narcotráfico y el uso y abuso de drogas ilícitas. No obstante, es necesario incrementar nuestra acción conjunta a fin de obtener mayores logros.

Expuse a los señores legisladores estadounidenses la idea de crear comisiones nacionales gemelas en cada uno de nuestros países, las cuales deberán abocarse al estudio de todos y cada uno de los aspectos de esta cuestión y proponer soluciones que permitan a nuestros dos Gobiernos tomar nuevas acciones y ampliar la coordinación de esfuerzos.

En mi opinión cada comisión nacional podría quedar constituida por los funcionarios del Poder Ejecutivo responsables de la persecución de los delitos contra la salud, la prevención del uso ilícito de estupefacientes y otras drogas peligrosas, así como la curación y rehabilitación de las víctimas de la farmacodependencia. Se invitaría a participar en ellas a representantes de las cámaras de diputados y de senadores de los Congresos respectivos, así como a representantes de los padres de familia y de los medios de comunicación masiva.

Cada comisión nacional estudiaría la problemática y recomendaría acciones que serían discutidas en reuniones de ambas comisiones las que deberían establecer un mecanismo

que asegure

# Presidente de México

- 3 -

que asegure la eficacia y agilidad de sus trabajos, posible-  
mente a través de comisiones ejecutivas. La periodicidad  
en sus reuniones sería acordada conforme a las necesidades  
de los trabajos.

Por mi parte ya procedo a integrar la comisión  
mexicana en los términos arriba enunciados, en la intelligen-  
cia de que el Gobierno a mi cargo continuará realizando en  
forma intensiva todas las acciones de combate al narcotráfico  
y las demás relativas a este problema, manteniendo como  
hasta ahora la estrecha coordinación existente entre las de-  
pendencias y organismos competentes de nuestros dos Go-  
biernos.

Con vista a lo anterior me es grato proponerle  
considerar la conveniencia de establecer una comisión esta-  
dounidense con las finalidades antes enunciadas que estaría  
en contacto permanente con la comisión mexicana.

Al manifestar a Vuestra Excelencia que estoy se-  
guro de que esta propuesta sobre materia de tanta trascenden-  
cia para la humanidad merecerá su simpatía, aprovecho esta  
ocasión para reiterarle el testimonio de mi más alta considera-  
ción y personal estima.



L. Alvarez





## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 23, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Narcotics: Letter from Mexican  
President Echeverria to  
President Ford

Attached is the original of a letter from President Luis Echeverria of Mexico to President Ford in which the Mexican President expresses his concern over the problem of the illegal traffic in dangerous narcotics and proposes the establishment of parallel Mexican and US Commissions to deal with the broad problem of narcotics use and traffic. A translation of Echeverria's letter is also attached.

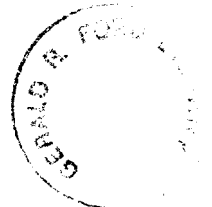
President Echeverria prepared the letter following a recent discussion on narcotics with Ambassador Jova, who was accompanied on his visit to the Mexican President by Congressmen Lester Wolff and Benjamin Gilman. This approach was the latest of a number of high level discussions we have had with Mexican officials on narcotics problems, including Attorney General Levi's meeting with the Mexican Attorney General in December, Assistant Secretary Rogers' talks with high level Mexican officials in early December, and various meetings with the Mexicans by Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance.

The Department, in conjunction with other interested agencies, is studying the Mexican President's proposal to determine how we can best

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS

Date 3/6/04



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

take advantage of Echeverria's initiative and assure the greatest degree possible of Mexican cooperation in the struggle against illicit narcotics. The Department will forward its comments and a proposed substantive response to Echeverria's initiative shortly.



George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Letter to President Ford from  
President Echeverria, dated 1/12/76,  
with translation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



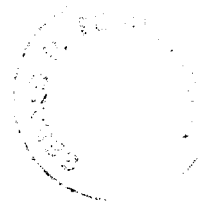
R.O.

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed the White House staff <sup>in cooperation</sup> ~~to begin now~~ with <sup>other</sup> ~~the~~ departments of government <sup>begin</sup> ~~to consider~~ ways <sup>in</sup> ~~in which we~~ ~~should organize ourselves~~ to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel organizations, in general similar to each other, seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a <sup>that</sup> ~~development which~~ can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our <sup>short-term</sup> success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us ~~will~~ depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. <sup>T</sup> The effect of this new initiative will be felt over the longer term. Thus, I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.



For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our <sup>own</sup> effectiveness in the United States ~~against~~ <sup>in dealing with</sup> the narcotics traffic coming ~~across the border~~ <sup>into the United States from Mexico</sup> and ~~against~~ <sup>the</sup> contraband moving from ~~the United States~~ <sup>the United States</sup> into Mexico.

These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for ~~the two sides~~ <sup>our governments</sup> to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.

I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention <sup>as well as law enforcement,</sup> and rehabilitation aspects of the narcotic <sup>s</sup> problem, ~~as well as~~ ~~the law enforcement aspect.~~ As you know, the concept of a Federal program ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the cornerstone of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will include full representation of all aspects of the drug program.

~~Along these lines,~~ <sup>IN THE NEAR FUTURE</sup> I expect to have ~~shortly~~ concrete proposals for action on our part to match the new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to <sup>ENSURE</sup> ~~assure~~ we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your ~~Government~~ <sup>g</sup> have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain <sup>A</sup> ~~the spirit of~~ close

collaboration between our two countries <sup>on this problem.</sup> ~~you have initiated~~

~~with all best regards, etc.~~

Sincerely,

Gerald Ford



Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed my staff to consider on an urgent basis the most effective way to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel and similar organizations seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development that can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our short-term success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. This new initiative will strengthen our cooperation over the longer term. I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our own effectiveness in dealing with the narcotics traffic coming into the United States from Mexico and the contraband moving from the United States into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for our governments to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.





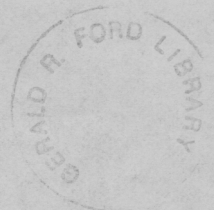
I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation, as well as law enforcement, aspects of the narcotics problem. The concept of a federal program that balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the basis of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will deal fully with all aspects of the drug program.

In the near future I expect to have concrete proposals for action to match the new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to ensure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your government have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain a close collaboration between our two countries on this problem.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Luis Echeverria Alvarez  
President of Mexico  
Palacio Nacional  
Mexico D. F.



Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed my staff to consider on an urgent basis the effective means to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel and similar organizations seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development that can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our short-term success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. This new initiative will strengthen our cooperation over the longer term. I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our own effectiveness in dealing with the narcotics traffic coming into the United States from Mexico and the contraband moving from the United States into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for our governments to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.



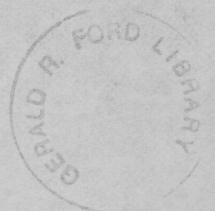
I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation, as well as law enforcement, aspects of the narcotics problem. The concept of a federal program that balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the basis of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will deal fully with all aspects of the drug program.

In the near future I expect to have concrete proposals for action to match the new effort your have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to ensure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your government have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain a close collaboration between our two countries on this problem.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Luis Echeverria Alvarez  
President of Mexico  
Palacio Nacional  
Mexico D. F.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed ~~the White House staff, in cooperation with other departments of government, to begin considering ways~~ *my staff to consider an urgent* to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel organizations, ~~in general similar to each other,~~ seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

*and similar*  
As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development that can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our short-term success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. ~~The effect of this new initiative will be felt over the longer term.~~ Thus, I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our own effectiveness in dealing with the narcotics traffic coming into the United States from Mexico and the contraband moving from the United States into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for our governments to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.

*strengthen our cooperation*

*not that effective means*

I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation, as well as law enforcement, aspects of the narcotics problem. ~~As you know,~~ the concept of a federal program that balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the <sup>basic</sup> ~~cornerstone~~ of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will ~~include full representation of~~ all aspects of the drug program.

*deal fully with*

In the near future I expect to have concrete proposals for action ~~on our part~~ to match the new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to ensure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your government have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain a close collaboration between our two countries on this problem.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Luis Echeverria Alvarez  
President of Mexico  
Palacio Nacional  
Mexico D. F.



WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft

SUBJECT: Narcotics: Letter from Mexican President Echeverria

President Echeverria has written you expressing his concern over the problem of the illegal traffic in dangerous narcotics and proposing establishment of parallel Mexican and U.S. commissions to deal with the broad problem of narcotics use and traffic (Tab B). President Echeverria's letter followed a recent discussion on narcotics with Ambassador Jova and Congressmen Lester L. Wolff (D., N.Y.) and Benjamin A. Gilman (R., N.Y.).

President Echeverria proposes twin national commissions that could undertake parallel studies of all aspects of the drug abuse problem with a view to proposing new lines of action and expanding coordination between our two countries. He expresses the opinion that each national commission might be composed of officials of the executive branches as well as members of the legislative branches and representatives of the mass communications media and the public. He states in his letter that he is proceeding to establish a Mexican commission pursuant to these terms.

In conjunction with the concerned federal agencies, the Domestic Council, OMB and NSC have begun a study of the Mexican proposal to determine how best we can take advantage of Echeverria's initiatives and assure the greatest degree possible of Mexican cooperation in the struggle against illicit narcotics. We will be forwarding to you shortly for your consideration recommendations on the way we can use existing drug commissions to parallel that being organized by Echeverria.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

WJ 3/6/04

In the meantime, it is recommended that you respond in a warm fashion to Echeverria's letter and proposal and indicate that you have directed the White House staff in conjunction with the appropriate departments of government to consider ways in which we should organize ourselves to collaborate closely with the commission he is establishing. The response should also underscore the importance you attach to measures our governments are already taking, both separately and together. A suggested letter, along these lines, is attached at Tab A.

The Domestic Council and OMB concur in this memorandum. Bob Orben's office has cleared the text of the letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to President Echeverria the letter at Tab A.



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
1	23	1	23	20	7600475	LOW

2m

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: Echeverria, Luis A REFERENCE: 7601384 CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
 KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_ COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT  
 SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_ LOU NO FORN NODIS  
 DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ ST EX SEC X S EYES ONLY EXDIS  
 TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Ltr to Pres from Pres Echeverria of Mexico re establishment of parallel US & Mexican Comms to combat narcotics

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASCMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO.		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ( )
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ( <u>X</u> )
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR ( )
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION ( )
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO TO ( )
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
LATIN AMERICA	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	JOINT MEMO ( )
UNITED NATIONS <u>Oruq</u>		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	REFER TO FOR ( )
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ( )
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ( )
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: <u>2/02</u>
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				
<u>Leonard, M</u>			<u>X</u>	

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
				<u>to Horan for action &amp; trans for flow / memo for Pres (2/02)</u>	
<u>1/24</u>	<u>Horan</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Pres for signature (2/2)</u>	
<u>2/3</u>	<u>Pres</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>sgultr to Echeverria</u>	
<u>2/6</u>	<u>NSC</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Pres sgd. ltr to Echeverria</u>	
<u>2/6</u>	<u>Oruq</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Review prior to dispatch (2-7)</u>	
<u>2/7</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>FOR DISPATCH</u>	
	<u>done</u>			<u>2-7-76 outside receipt MST</u>	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH ✓  
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:  
 NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

WALDO R. FORD LIBRARY  
 FEB 10 1976  
 MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:  
 CRT ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OPEN GAB \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLOSE MST \_\_\_\_\_  
 SF  
 HP NS  
 WH EP  
 PA DY