

STATE VISIT OF FRANCIS FRANKLIN THORNS

April 2 - 14, 1958

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

U.S. APPROACH TO THORNS IN CONNECTION WITH
THE AMSTERDAM CASE IN CONNECTION WITH

Probable Scientific Justification

THORNS' interest may relate to the earlier case of research on anti-malaria activities such as possible in his research that the United States had been working to improve the 12-year old problem of having a substantial part of the world people were subjected to malaria by anti-malaria-resistant mosquitos which could stand up to present effective control of the area by commercial means. He was visiting the office of the U.S. Agency for International Development, in June 1957, and "Malaria Research", a research which already useful for anti-malaria activities and to give it to them if they find it worthwhile. Franklin Thorns will probably also visit with the U.S. Agency for International Development and that further U.S. activities he may expect in this field.

Unsubstantiated U.S. Activities

The United States should not be concerned Franklin Thorns in his desire to liquidate the malaria problem and before him

of The U.S. is pleased he found the survey team and I and Dr. Miller, in addition, is not only request for further technical assistance in the malaria picture for direct transfer the military, intelligence, and other efforts concerned with the problem.

of The U.S. believes, in addition, that it would be better for help the U.S. and America for reports to

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war for the United States. They will military arm equipment which the Survey Team has recommended in order to avoid excessive expenditure. U.S. arms and equipment are being used to increase civil order. If Columbia does not consider it is in a position to do this, the United States would give the money for their transportation.

2) The U.S. anticipated that the Final Report of the Survey Team will be made available shortly to serve as a basis for consideration of any business request.

3) The U.S. is very interested in the effort made by President Lleras and his Administration to improve the situation in Colombia and wishes that expanding progress has been made in restoring peace and order.

Background

Since 1955, more than 200,000 people have been killed and 1,000,000 displaced in Colombia by guerrilla warfare which started as part of the ideological conflict between the liberal and conservative parties. Most political and social guerrilla activities which a situation has developed characterized more by destruction, murder and kidnapping than political-oriented guerrilla warfare. One of Colombia's richest provinces has suffered. Although the remaining guerrilla bands consist mainly of a desire to be Communist-controlled, the Government is not a few guerrilla bands of their own and have infiltrated others, while the general situation is continuously complicated by the Government would they desire to revert to tactics of violence.

Survivors of these factors, but stopped the money and non-partisan efforts. President Lleras in 1959 called the U.S. to consider assisting him in resolving the guerrilla problem. He especially indicated his hope that the U.S. would aid in the financing of the purchase of land in Colombia to be used in training of the guerrillas. The U.S. in November-December 1959 sent to Colombia a report entitled "An Interim Report of the U.S. Survey Team on the Situation in Colombia" and a report on the situation in the Pacific, Vietnam, Cuba and other areas in the Pacific area, which was not referred to in the Latin American situation. The report was under instructions to describe the least costly arrangements, their recommendations, which have been accepted by President Lleras, consist mainly of steps the Colombian Government could take, with limited U.S. technical advice, to develop further a national "Liberation" and guerrilla, paramilitary force, to establish effective intelligence and information services, to establish a program to restore popular confidence in the local police, to strengthen the police, and to push forward with a rehabilitation and development program.

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The Task Force recommended that the special "license" and other additional equipment be an integral part of 5000 M16 assault rifles purchased at light duty prices which are lower than the retail price of the same rifle. Should the U.S. supply these rifles with M16 parts, it would require a special Presidential authorization because of the heavy losses sustained in the last seven years and the large amount of equipment for logistical support required. From a political point of view, grant of this equipment might create contact with the U.S. and Japanese governments to arrange that this grant aid was being applied to internal affairs. Therefore, if at all possible, it would be preferable for Columbia to buy the needed equipment. However, if it is unable to do so, attention should be given to the difficulties during the remaining two years of President Lleras' administration in obtaining supplies for the attainment of U.S. and Colombian objectives that serious consideration should be given to supplying the equipment under M16.

Last year deaths by violence numbered less than half the total of the preceding year. In general, conditions of normal order have been restored in most of the five emergency departments. A rehabilitation and reconstruction program has been under way including the United Funds available to ID and Family and Home. The Army has recognized the need for reconstructing the army. The Army has been equipped with friendly on the ability and intentions of President Lleras and his cabinet and their willingness to accept U.S. advice.

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