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Model Antinarcotics Force in Miami Is Said to Disrupt Routes of Smugglers

By GREGORY JAYNES

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Nov. 5 — President Reagan has announced that he wants to create 12 special regional forces in January, patterned after a group created here this year, to combat narcotics smuggling and organized crime. But just how effective the model force in Miami has been is difficult to assess, its task being so unending.

"While we wouldn't claim we have won any of the war or turned off drug smuggling in South Florida," the coordinator of the project, Charles Rinkevich, said in an interview, "we do think we've made a pretty significant dent in what is going on down here."

The force came into being in March at a cost of \$9 million. After listening sympathetically to Miami's cries for help and hearing from its own agencies that 80 to 90 percent of the country's marijuana and cocaine entered the United States through southern Florida, the Reagan Administration responded generously.

The United States Customs Service in Miami was assigned 250 additional agents; 73 agents, four intelligence analysts and six secretaries were sent here for the Drug Enforcement Administration. The Federal Bureau of Investigation here received 43 more agents, and the Border Patrol got 25 more officers. Army Cobra helicopters and Navy E-2C Hawkeyes, advanced radar planes, also joined the effort, and the Coast Guard here was assigned five more vessels for narcotics patrols.

More than anything, according to local law-enforcement officials, the effort has disrupted the normal routes of the drug traffickers and moved the points of entry for illegal drugs away from Florida. Now each time a major seizure is made in, say, New England, narcotics agents here privately speculate that, were it not for them, the contraband would have come here.

The disruption, according to Mr. Rinkevich, causes the traffickers to use other routes, larger aircraft and larger ships, to cover longer distances and to

spend more time in transit. "And therefore there is more opportunity to nail them and therefore it's good for our side," he said. The displacement to other parts of the country, he added, "is clearly one of the issues the other 12 task forces will have to address."

But though local seizures of narcotics have increased, the availability of drugs here, particularly cocaine, has not declined significantly. Calling cocaine "the more easily concealed commodity," Mr. Rinkevich said he was "bothered by reports that availability remains at a satisfactory level from the standpoint of the user."

"We are not sure what that means," he added, offering the theory that it was imported elsewhere in the country and brought back here.

Murders Have Decreased

Narcotics-related homicides still fill the local papers, though homicides in Miami and Dade County are down this year from 1981, when the metropolitan area led the country in the rate of violent crime. Through Oct. 31, 1981, there were 279 murders in Dade County, and through Oct. 31 this year, according to statistics from the county Department of Public Safety, there were 246. Other violent crimes have decreased as well, largely because of increased police forces and a citizenry that is quick to reach for the phone, if not for a weapon.

As for the special force, a significant side effect has been to give the Federal agents who were here before its establishment more time for investigations of greater depth. Brent Eaton, the spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration here, said: "We have been able to work on long-range conspiracy cases and undercover probes we might not have had time for when we were running down to the docks every day meeting the pot ships. You'll be seeing several important cases in coming months."

One case to which Mr. Eaton referred earlier this week was the indictment here today of 14 people, including four Cuban officials on narcotics conspiracy

charges. The indictment says Cuba helped Colombian smugglers bring marijuana and methaqualone into the United States.

Hardly a week passes here without one agency or another announcing that a three-month or six-month or nine-month investigation has resulted in the roundup of a narcotics money-laundering ring, or any of a dozen other kinds of rings. Operation Greenback, Operation Bancoshares, Operation Swordfish all appear on the front pages only to be replaced in a few days by another ambitious sweep. And a significant side effect of all the confiscations is that the public coffers are being enriched. On Sunday, for instance, Fort Lauderdale will open a new \$1 million jail, and, according to Jeff Hochman, the city's special counsel, "The entire construction cost was paid for by the dopers."

Seizures Generate Revenue

In the last two years, the courts in Fort Lauderdale have awarded the city \$3.1 million in cash and assets, nearly all from seizures in narcotics cases. The Federal Treasury is getting a handsome share as well. When President Reagan announced his new plan last month, at a cost put at \$160 million to \$200 million, many members of Congress publicly wondered where the money would come from. No one, including the Administration, mentioned that narcotics enforcement agencies are generating revenue.

The Customs Service is a case in point. In 11 Southeastern states from Jan. 1, 1981, to Sept. 30, 1982, drug raids by customs agents resulted in the confiscation of 271 planes, 699 boats and 503 vehicles; all have been or will be sold at auction. About 90 percent of the raids were in South Florida. The value of the whole haul comes to \$57.5 million, and it all goes to the Government.

The amount of cocaine and marijuana being seized has also increased. Jim Dengfelder, spokesman for the task force, said he did not have a figure for the group as a whole, but an agency-by-agency check showed that cocaine

confiscations were up this year over last, while marijuana seizures, on the rise at the beginning of the year, had dropped as the smugglers presumably have shifted to other routes. Customs agents seized 2,816 pounds of cocaine in the Southeast in 1981, 90 percent of it in this part of Florida. In 1982, through Sept. 30, the Customs Service seized 6,541 pounds of cocaine. The amount of marijuana seized by the agency and the Coast Guard combined was 2.5 million pounds in 1981, and 2.3 million pounds through Sept. 30, 1982. All the seized narcotics are eventually destroyed.

Solution Still Far Off

For all that, the larger question on the minds of many people here is whether more personnel and equipment will ever approach a solution of the problem. Vice President Bush, visiting here last week, said, "Let's face it. Drugs aren't going to disappear. But we're making it tougher and tougher to make a living off this despicable business." And Gov. Bob Graham, who was re-elected Tuesday, said recently that the only solution was to "go to the source country for eradication."

Seizures, however large the amount, are still estimated to stop less than 10 percent of the illegal narcotics that enter this country every year. In the case of cocaine, which is refined in Colombia but grown in Bolivia and Peru, Bolivia has refused to cooperate with the United States. With Peru, the State Department has had some success with a five-year, \$167 million project begun in 1979 to turn the country to substitute crops, but not nearly enough success to say the program enormously diminished the coca crop, according to drug enforcement agents.

Here in Miami, one of the more pessimistic views was offered the other day by a Coast Guard petty officer as his cutter stopped to search a boat: "It's discouraging to think one day we'll look back at the dopers like we look back at the rum runners," he said. "Who knows? One of their grandsons might be President."



United Press International

In March United States Customs agents inspected some of the 3,748 pounds of cocaine seized in a warehouse at Miami International Airport. Officials say southern Florida routes used by drug traffickers have been disrupted.

LEVEL 2 - 8 OF 103 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982:

January 28, 1982, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington News

DISTRIBUTION: Florida

LENGTH: 430 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: Florida

BODY:

President Reagan Thursday created a Cabinet-level special task force headed by Vice President George Bush to deal with the "serious problems" of massive immigration, rampant crime and drug smuggling in South Florida.

"It is my belief that the federal government has a special responsibility to fill in temporarily and do what it can to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate these problems," Reagan said in a statement.

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Proprietary to the United Press International, January 28, 1982

'The effort to ameliorate this problem will require the full cooperation and support of many federal department and agencies,' he added.

He said the task force will analyze the problems and determine 'what steps we must take during the period of aggravated crime incidence.'

White House communications director David Gergen said Reagan decided to establish the task force after presidential counselor Edwin Meese had a series of meetings with Florida officials.

Reagan said that once-tranquil South Florida in the past few years has become 'a landing area for hundreds of thousands of refugees, and the nation's major terminal for the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States.'

He said many who fled to the United States 'came out of desperation -- a desperation inflicted upon them by a dictator who tolerates no freedoms nor allows human rights.'

Gergen said Reagan was referring to Cuba's Fidel Castro.

He said the overwhelming majority of refugees have been freedom-loving, peaceful people. 'Unfortunately, a very small percentage pursued a life of

Proprietary to the United Press International, January 28, 1982

crime and violence that victimized their neighbors in their homeland and even today continue this intolerable behavior in South Florida,' he added.

The president said the criminal activities and drug trafficking have 'unfairly burdened financially, the 2 million people who live in the area, 'in addition to being denied their constitutional right to live in peace without fear and intimidation.'

'Massive immigration, rampant crime and epidemic drug smuggling have created a serious problem,' he said.

Reagan said the current situation in South Florida 'is unique' with its hundreds and hundreds of miles of coastline, and its proximity to the Caribbean.

'The work of the task force begins today,' he said, adding 'we seek to assist the people of this region in their efforts to achieve an early restoration of their community...'

Members of the panel include Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, Attorney General William French Smith, and Meese.

LEVEL 2 - 1 OF 103 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982

February 6, 1982, Saturday, PM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Florida

LENGTH: 470 words

DATELINE: CLEARWATER, Fla.

KEYWORD: Bush

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Task Force

BODY:

Vice President George Bush has professed to see light this year in the nation's recession tunnel but he urged his countrymen to be patient about the America's problems.

In wide ranging news conference Friday Bush said President Reagan's economic program will begin having a positive impact on the economy before 1983. "It will turn around with less inflation and unemployment will go down," he

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 6, 1982

predicted.

Afterward, in an impromptu speech to 740 Republicans at a \$100 a plate fund raiser for Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young, R-Fla., Bush said, "Impatience is an American quality.

"Our problems are not going to disappear overnight, but they are going to disappear.

"Give him (Reagan) a chance," he said.

The vice president said the nation needs "an optimistic spirit instead of the ever present pessimism of those who say the only way you are going to solve your problems is to take them to the insensitive bureaucracy in Washington."

The Reagan Administration is essentially a "clean-up crew" for a government that has been run primarily by non-elected officials who don't have to report to the people and are expert in only three areas - taxation, spending and regulation, he said.

"They've acted like they've had a gold American Express card with no limit on credit," Bush told the fund raiser.

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 6, 1982

At the news conference, Bush also commented on El Salvador, the President's new federalism, and a federal crime busting force for South Florida he heads.

'The new federalism was campaigned on,' Bush said. 'Too much power was centered in Washington. We're talking about returning government to the people.'

But he said it wouldn't be easy to get through Congress.

'It's going to be a real battle,' he said. 'To stand here and suggest that federal cuts will be easy, I can't do that, particularly with people out of work.'

Bush said the Reagan goal in El Salvador is to keep out communism.

'The ultimate objective that we share with many of our friends in this hemisphere -- and there are many, many countries -- is to keep (Fidel) Castro, backed by the Soviet Union, from feeding revolutionary pressures to overthrow the regime in El Salvador,' Bush said.

'We favor elections, free, verifiable elections. We don't want to see another Fidel Castro in El Salvador, and so our policy is to join with our

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 6, 1982

friends in Latin America to see to it that Castro-type Marxism-Leninism does not take over a country that doesn't want to happen to it.'

Bush said the south Florida task force was aimed at assisting state and local officials. 'We don't plan to come down and dictate to the local police and state officials. We want to coordinate the efforts of the federal government.'

Bush, who came to Clearwater from Cape Canaveral, flew back to Washington after the fund raising speech.

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 4, 1982

February 4, 1982, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Florida

LENGTH: 490 words

BYLINE: By MARK SHAVIN

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

KEYWORD: Xgr-Refugees

BODY:

The influx of 185,000 Cuban and Haitian refugees into Florida has cost federal, state and local governments over \$368 million, the newly-formed House Select Committee on Refugee Impact was told Thursday.

The federal government has reimbursed Florida \$220 million, leaving state and local governments to pick up the remaining \$148 million tab, said Tom Herndon, director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting.

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House Speaker Ralph H. Haben, Jr., who appointed the committee, opened its first meeting by telling members, "I don't mind (Florida) being a welcome station as long as someone helps us.

"What I would like you to do is ... determine the dollar impact of what this has meant to the State of Florida. At the conclusion of your hearings it would be my intention to have some of you folks go to Washington," Haben said.

Herndon told the committee, "It's clear we have done moderately well in capturing some money." However he predicted greater hardship for state and local governments when eligibility assistance for refugees and new entrants is cut from 36 months to 18 months on March 1.

He said the policy change will cost Florida \$36 million as Medicaid, cash assistance and other benefits are cut.

David Pingree, secretary of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said 25,000 people will be stripped of aid.

"Florida is a big loser," Pingree said. "However you look at it this isn't the time to be on public assistance in the State of Florida."

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 4, 1982

He commended President Reagan for appointing a special task force to look into south Florida problems, but he likened the state to a "festering wound."

Pingree said the federal government must do the following:

- Immediately focus attention on refugee Cubans with criminal records;
- Expeditiously embark on immigration policy reform; and
- Provide needed dollars.

Representatives from various executive departments in Florida government were invited to address the social and economic impact of refugees at the first meeting of the committee, formed to convince Congress more federal aid is needed in the state.

Herndon outlined the documented expenses Florida has incurred in a variety of areas.

He said the single largest unreimbursed cost to state and local governments is education. The state has spent \$37 million on entrant and refugee children

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 4, 1982

in grades K through 12, and another \$15 million on adult education.

Education has cost local governments \$39 million through grade 12, with adult education costing \$29 million.

Criminal justice was the second largest unreimbursed expense, costing the state \$3.6 million and local governments \$11 million.

"In all honesty, I don't think we have any choice but to continue taking the problem (to Washington)," Herndon said.

Speaker Pro Tempore Barry Kutun, D-Miami Beach, committee chairman, said, "We cannot accept a 'no' answer from the federal government."

LEVEL 2 - 7 OF 103 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982

January 28, 1982, Thursday, PM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Florida

LENGTH: 570 words

DATELINE: MIAMI

KEYWORD: Florida

BODY:

Florida officials are welcoming President Reagan's decision to create a special task force to deal with refugees and drugs, but caution they are waiting for action -- not words.

The president announced Thursday he is creating a Cabinet-level task force headed by Vice President George Bush to deal with the "serious problems" of massive immigration, rampant crime and drug smuggling in south Florida.

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Proprietary to the United Press International, January 28, 1982

While all this is fine, Attorney General Jim Smith says he is waiting to see what will come of the blue-ribbon task force.

"The problems don't call for long term studies," Smith said. "My hope is that this is a signal that will be followed by quick action - picking up the tab for the refugees, insisting on military cooperation with federal and state law enforcement and support for drug spraying operations in source countries.

Smith recently said the state has spent more than \$127 million over the past year handling and caring for thousands of refugees who have come to Florida.

"Given the long period of time that has elapsed in which the federal government failed to deal with these national problems in Florida, I think it is appropriate that officials at the level of the vice president and the Cabinet have been appointed," Smith said.

Gov. Bob Graham said the decision "means that the voices of the people of Florida have finally been heard in Washington.

"We have advocated a federal response to the crime problem, particularly illegal drug trafficking. We have demanded federal action to alleviate the hardships on the people of Florida, caused by the unprecedented flow of

Proprietary to the United Press International, January 28, 1982

refugees into the United States via Florida's shores.

"Now we must press on for action and results," Graham said. "I speak for the people of Florida in welcoming this long-sought action today."

White House officials were unable to specify the goals of the task force, supply a timetable or predict what it would do.

"This will not be an indefinite program," said Peter Teeley, Bush's press secretary. "The purpose is to get something organized and get something done."

Reagan said the task force will analyze the problems and determine "what steps we must take during the period of aggravated crime incidence."

He noted that once-tranquil south Florida in the past few years has become "a landing area for hundreds of thousands of refugees, and the nation's major terminal for the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States."

He said many who fled to the United States "came out of desperation -- a desperation inflicted upon them by a dictator who tolerates no freedoms nor allows human rights."

Proprietary to the United Press International, January 28, 1982

David Gergen, White House communications director, said Reagan was referring to Cuba's Fidel Castro.

Reagan said the overwhelming majority of refugees have been freedom-loving, peaceful people. 'Unfortunately, a very small percentage pursued a life of crime and violence that victimized their neighbors in their homeland and even today continue this intolerable behavior in South Florida,' he added.

The president said the criminal activities and drug trafficking have 'unfairly burdened financially, the 2 million people who live in the area, 'in addition to being denied their constitutional right to live in peace without fear and intimidation.

'Massive immigration, rampant crime and epidemic drug smuggling have created a serious problem,' he said.

As you recall, resolution of the Cyprus problem is a priority of this Administration. In this regard, I met with Cypriot President Kyprianou on December 8, 1981, for a useful and productive exchange of views. The United States remains fully committed to assisting in achieving a just and lasting Cyprus settlement and will continue to give its full support to the United Nations and the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Cyprus, Ambassador Hugo Gobbi, in their efforts to secure solutions to the negotiating differences separating the parties.

The United Nations has continued to pay close attention to developments on Cyprus. In his December 12, 1981 report on Cyprus, the Secretary General hoped the introduction of the UN "evaluation" would "mark the beginning of a new and fruitful phase in the long search for a negotiated settlement." He stressed the need for a "concrete and effective" negotiating process and expressed the opinion that the UN "evaluation" embodies a "determined effort to lend structure and substance" to the negotiating process.

I am also pleased to note that on December 14, 1981, the Security Council passed unanimously a resolution extending the mandate of the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to June 15, 1982. We share with other Security Council members the conviction that UNFICYP's presence aids in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to productive intercommunal discussions.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Note: This is the text of identical letters addressed to Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Charles H. Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Crime in Southern Florida

Statement Announcing Establishment of a Federal Task Force. January 28, 1982

During the past few years, the once tranquil area of south Florida has become a

landing area for hundreds of thousands of refugees and the Nation's major terminal for the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States.

Many of those who fled to our land came out of desperation—a desperation inflicted upon them by a dictator who tolerates no freedoms nor allows human rights. The overwhelming majority of these refugees are freedom-loving, peaceful people. Most have resettled in new homes and in new communities in order to build a better life for themselves and for their families. In the years to come they will take their place alongside the millions of others who came before them in making ours a greater land. Unfortunately, a very small percentage pursued a life of crime and violence that victimized their neighbors in their homeland and even today continue this intolerable behavior in south Florida. Combined with the related criminal activities of drug trafficking, the nearly 2 million people of south Florida are unfairly burdened financially in addition to being denied their constitutional right to live in peace without fear and intimidation.

Massive immigration, rampant crime, and epidemic drug smuggling have created a serious problem. Therefore, it is my belief that the Federal Government has a special responsibility to fill in temporarily and do what it can to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate these problems.

The effort to ameliorate this problem will require the full cooperation and support of many Federal departments and agencies. To coordinate this effort, I am today announcing the establishment of a special task force, headed by Vice President George Bush, to analyze the problems and determine what steps we must take during the period of aggravated crime incidence. This task force will be similar to the one we established for the city of Atlanta. During the period of maximum need, it will coordinate the efforts of the Federal Government and make recommendations and decisions regarding our course of action.

Secretaries Haig, Weinberger, Regan, Lewis, Attorney General Smith, and Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese will serve

as members of the task force. A working group will be headed by Adm. Daniel Murphy, the Vice President's Chief of Staff, and personal representatives of these principals.

The current situation in south Florida is unique. With hundreds and hundreds of miles of coastline, and as the southernmost point of our country located in the Caribbean, it has experienced difficulties that no other community could ever anticipate.

The work of the task force begins today. We seek to assist the people of this region in their efforts to achieve an early restoration of their community and their lives to the normalcy they deserve.

European Management Forum Symposium

*Text of Remarks to the Symposium.
January 28, 1982*

Greetings to all of you attending the European Management Forum. On behalf of the American people, please accept our very best wishes for the new year. I would have liked to meet with you personally, but I am glad Ambassador Brock will be in Davos representing our administration.

As we begin 1982, we know these are times of testing in our relations. Together we face new perils of repression in the East and problems of weak growth in our own countries. Unless we are careful, these stresses could divide rather than unite us. They could combine with a sense of the complexity of modern life to produce skepticism and fear—a turning away from the sources of our strength.

Let us resolve that this must not and will not happen. The values and principles we share—faith in God, devotion to the rule of law, human rights, and economic liberty—are the foundation of Western civilization. They give life to the spirit of freedom and nourish the dreams of millions of oppressed around the world.

Our values and principles have never failed us—when we have lived up to them. Think back over the past 35 years. They have been remarkable years of peace, pros-

perity, and progress—years in which America and Europe have grown together to new heights of community and commerce.

We need to remember that despite the problems we face, we are strong, secure, and stable democracies. We need to remind ourselves that when we stood together in the past, we performed great feats. We can do it again; we can meet any challenge if we remain true to each other and to the beliefs we share.

In America, we are trying to do this. We have relearned one lesson we should have never forgotten: that only by rewarding personal initiative and insisting government live within its means can we save the spirit of enterprise and risk-taking so essential to economic progress, human fulfillment, and the preservation of freedom itself.

There is no other way. Higher government spending and taxation do not work. Protectionist tariffs do not work. Always they are sold as short-term solutions. But inevitably, a quick-fix leads to long-term addiction, and in this case, the disease of higher interest rates, inflation, and economic stagnation nearly destroyed our economy.

The United States has turned an historic corner. We have put together the greatest collection of incentives in 50 years to help Americans rebuild our economy and restore their financial security. These reforms are just beginning. They won't work overnight. But they *will* work, and savings, investment, and productivity growth will revive.

No one appreciates the role of personal initiative and incentives better than you, the entrepreneurial leaders of Europe. We are impressed by the talent and treasure of your industry and commerce. We look to you to initiate the revival we seek, to overcome the fears that some betray, and to reignite the spirit of independence and individual freedom we need.

Some say it is dangerous to push for dramatic reforms in a period of instability. But I believe it is dangerous not to. There will always be a crisis. There may not always be an opportunity.

As we strive for economic recovery, we are strengthening our defenses so America can work with your countries as a trustee of freedom and peace. We will work with our allies in a spirit of equality and consultation.