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LCDR [REDACTED]
G-OIS-3/33, 426-1983
19 June 1980

SUBJECT

DON FOIA Ex 3:10 USC §1306

Inter-American Maritime Intelligence Network (IAMIN)

HIGHLIGHTS

Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference held in Lima, Peru, in August 1978. Resolution adopted: "....That interested navies develop a cooperative system for exchanging information on law enforcement matters of a mutual interest within maritime spaces under their respective jurisdiction and on the high seas. Such matters would deal with cases involving the preservation of maritime natural resources as well as the control of illicit activities...." Nine countries, (Bahamas, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico) sent representatives to Coast Guard Headquarters in May 1979 to discuss creation of IAMIN. Network declared operational on 9 August 1979. Support for continued participation reinforced by recent (27 April - 3 June 1980) three-man Coast Guard training team visits to participating countries.

DISCUSSION

IAMIN is a U. S. Coast Guard Intelligence sponsored communications network enabling navies of participating countries to exchange intelligence information on the location of suspect or profile vessels engaged in narcotics trafficking. Commander, Atlantic Area and Commander, Pacific Area, are net control stations for respective ocean areas. Purpose of IAMIN is to fill a void in Coast Guard at-sea intelligence collection system, particularly near marijuana source countries and along known maritime trafficking routes. Network utilizes three separate means of communicating directly with Coast Guard Area Commanders -- commercial TELEX, the U. S. Navy Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network (IANTN), and the American Embassy. All countries have access to at least one of the systems; several have access to all systems. Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador utilize IANTN.

IAMIN, coupled with the U. S. Navy's participation in a Coast Guard sponsored Vessel Sighting Program, and the anticipated participation by Canada, offer an excellent means of providing timely information on the location of narcotics trafficking vessels along North, Central and South American maritime borders.

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Intelligence on vessel locations is transmitted directly to Coast Guard in a modified unclassified RAINFORM format approved by COMNAVINTCOM and code named EYEBALL. Messages received are automatically readdressed to several commands including Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center (NOSIC).

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the trend of expanding territorial seas and economic zones out to 200 miles, all navies will be tasked with patrolling these zones using air, surface and sub-surface assets to enforce their respective laws and protect their national maritime border. These patrols are strategically located in the areas of interest the U. S. Coast Guard is concerned about. Continued participation by Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela should be encouraged and supported by continued U. S. Navy support to IANTN and other programs directed at upgrading the operational and material readiness of the Latin American naval forces.

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