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C-3-I Dedication [Drug Command Center-Miami], 4/27/89

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARK DAVIS *md*
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
SUBJECT: C-3-I East Dedication

You will dedicate a new drug command center in the Miami area on Thursday, to be under the command of the Coast Guard and Customs. C-3-I (pronounced "see-three-eye") is military jargon for "Command, Communications, Control and Intelligence."

C-3-I East will synthesize radar and intelligence, allowing the center to direct federal, state and local agencies to interdict airplanes and boats suspected of carrying drugs. It is to be a model of interagency cooperation. The audience will be made up of several hundred drug-enforcement officials from around the country.

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Title: C31
Draft: Two

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: "C-3-I EAST" DEDICATION
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989/(t.b.d.)

Attorney General Thornburgh, [Director Bennett] Commissioner Von Raab, Admiral Yost, (Members of Congress), distinguished guests.

I am delighted to dedicate this facility. And, as I do, let me put to rest a popular misconception.

When we imagine a drug-smuggler, we usually think of a grizzled character, perhaps wearing a Hawaiian shirt and a leather jacket, perhaps with long hair and a beard tucked underneath an aviator's hat from a second-hand shop. Most people would expect him to be flying by the seat of his pants in a creaky cargo plane of an ancient vintage.

You know best how much the popular imagination lags behind reality. All too often, the drug smuggler is an excellent pilot or seaman, with a jet or a boat equipped with the latest communications and other sophisticated equipment. In short, he has everything that drug money can buy.

To identify and interdict this new breed of sophisticated drug smugglers, we must do more than match the resources of the multi-billion-dollar drug empire. And that is what we have done here, at c-three-I East, a nerve center in our war on drugs. Think of this as one of America's drug war situation rooms, as our early warning network against narcotics.

This facility, jointly managed by the U.S. Customs Service and Coast Guard, is an important part of our grand strategy in the war on drugs. From here, we will be able to detect, track, identify and apprehend suspected smugglers operating vessels and aircraft. This is the second such facility to come on line, joining one in Riverside, California, to guard more than 3,600 miles of our nation's Southern flank. In time, this facility alone will watch the skies from Brownsville, Texas, to Puerto Rico, and across the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Four years in planning and construction, this facility is dedicated to the principles of unity and cooperation, principles needed to repel the drug invasion of America. This facility provides the best example of how agencies will work together to wage the war on drugs. From this site, civilian and defense radars will work together, under the watchful eye of Coast Guard and Customs duty officers, who will coordinate interception by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, whether it

means scrambling a jet fighter, a Coast Guard cutter, or speedboats guided by the Blue Lightning Strike force.

America's response to airborne smuggling is especially dramatic, growing from a rag-tag collection of twin-engine planes seized from smugglers, into a highly sophisticated fleet of aircraft equipped with sensors designed for a unique law enforcement mission. Customs has a fleet of chase planes, and Black Hawk helicopters on loan from the Army. The Coast Guard operates Falcon jets with infra-red sensors and interceptor radar just like that on F-16s. These are just some of the birds of prey that will relentlessly search the skies for drug smugglers.

As impressive as this high-tech effort is, it's only as effective as the men and women who manage it. And it is with this in mind, that I salute those in the field, who are at risk every day in the war against drugs. But I also want to salute the officers who will staff this post, for every technician in this room knows that the lives of his colleagues will be on the line. This is a special responsibility that takes a special kind of courage.

Our purpose is simple and close to home -- to keep drugs out of the lockers, the classrooms and off the playgrounds of our schools; to redeem the children of America from the scourge of drugs.

In the months and years ahead, you will count kilos of cocaine and mountains of marijuana seized from ships and planes. You'll never know how many lives will be saved by your efforts. But never forget, that saving lives is exactly what you do.

Commissioner, Admiral, I thank you, and I salute the men and women of Customs and the Coast Guard for all that they have done, and for all that they will do. Thank you. God bless you. And God bless America.

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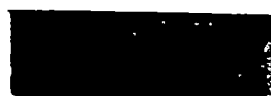
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**REMARKS: "C-3-I EAST" DEDICATION
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989/(T.B.D.)**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH, [DIRECTOR BENNETT]
COMMISSIONER VON RAAB, ADMIRAL YOST, (MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS), DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.**

**I AM DELIGHTED TO DEDICATE THIS FACILITY. AND, AS
I DO, LET ME PUT TO REST A POPULAR MISCONCEPTION.**




- 2 -

**WHEN WE IMAGINE A DRUG-SMUGGLER, SOME STILL THINK
OF A GRIZZLED CHARACTER, PERHAPS WEARING A HAWAIIAN
SHIRT AND A LEATHER JACKET, PERHAPS WITH LONG HAIR AND
A BEARD TUCKED UNDERNEATH AN AVIATOR'S HAT FROM A
SECOND-HAND SHOP -- EXPECTED TO BE FLYING BY THE SEAT
OF HIS PANTS IN A CREAKY CARGO PLANE OF AN ANCIENT
VINTAGE.**

**YOU KNOW BEST HOW MUCH THE POPULAR IMAGINATION LAGS
BEHIND REALITY.**

ALL TOO OFTEN, THE DRUG SMUGGLER IS AN EXCELLENT PILOT OR SEAMAN, WITH A JET OR A BOAT EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. IN SHORT, HE HAS EVERYTHING THAT DRUG MONEY CAN BUY.

TO IDENTIFY AND INTERDICT THIS NEW BREED OF SOPHISTICATED DRUG SMUGGLERS, WE MUST DO MORE THAN MATCH THE RESOURCES OF THE MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR DRUG EMPIRE.



AND THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE DONE HERE, AT C-THREE-I EAST, A NERVE CENTER IN OUR WAR ON DRUGS. THINK OF THIS AS ONE OF AMERICA'S DRUG WAR SITUATION ROOMS, AS OUR EARLY WARNING NETWORK AGAINST NARCOTICS.

THIS FACILITY, JOINTLY MANAGED BY THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE AND COAST GUARD, IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR GRAND STRATEGY IN THE WAR ON DRUGS. FROM HERE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DETECT, TRACK, IDENTIFY AND APPREHEND SUSPECTED SMUGGLERS OPERATING VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT.

[REDACTED]

- 5 -

THIS IS THE SECOND SUCH FACILITY TO COME ON LINE, JOINING ONE IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, TO GUARD MORE THAN 3,600 MILES OF OUR NATION'S SOUTHERN FLANK. IN TIME, THIS FACILITY ALONE WILL WATCH THE SKIES FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, TO PUERTO RICO, AND ACROSS THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD.

- 6 -

FOUR YEARS IN PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION, THIS FACILITY IS DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY AND COOPERATION, PRINCIPLES NEEDED TO REPEL THE DRUG INVASION OF AMERICA. THIS FACILITY PROVIDES THE BEST EXAMPLE OF HOW AGENICES WILL WORK TOGETHER TO WAGE THE WAR ON DRUGS.

- 7 -

FROM THIS SITE, CIVILIAN AND DEFENSE RADARS WILL WORK TOGETHER, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF COAST GUARD AND CUSTOMS DUTY OFFICERS, WHO WILL COORDINATE INTERCEPTION BY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WHETHER IT MEANS SCRAMBLING A JET FIGHTER, A COAST GUARD CUTTER, OR SPEEDBOATS GUIDED BY THE BLUE LIGHTNING STRIKE FORCE.

- 8 -

AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO AIRBORNE SMUGGLING IS ESPECIALLY DRAMATIC, GROWING FROM A RAG-TAG COLLECTION OF TWIN-ENGINE PLANES SEIZED FROM SMUGGLERS, INTO A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED FLEET OF AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH SENSORS DESIGNED FOR A UNIQUE LAW ENFORCEMENT MISSION. CUSTOMS HAS A FLEET OF CHASE PLANES, AND BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS ON LOAN FROM THE ARMY. THE COAST GUARD OPERATES FALCON JETS WITH INFRA-RED SENSORS AND INTERCEPTOR RADAR JUST LIKE THAT ON F-16s.

- 9 -

**THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE BIRDS OF PREY THAT WILL
RELENTLESSLY SEARCH THE SKIES FOR DRUG SMUGGLERS.**

**AS IMPRESSIVE AS THIS HIGH-TECH EFFORT IS, IT'S
ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MANAGE IT.
AND IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND, THAT I SALUTE THOSE IN THE
FIELD, WHO ARE AT RISK EVERY DAY IN THE WAR AGAINST
DRUGS.**

- 10 -

**BUT I ALSO WANT TO SALUTE THE OFFICERS WHO WILL STAFF
THIS POST, FOR EVERY TECHNICIAN IN THIS ROOM KNOWS THAT
THE LIVES OF HIS COLLEAGUES WILL BE ON THE LINE. THIS
IS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND
OF COURAGE.**

**OUR PURPOSE IS SIMPLE AND CLOSE TO HOME -- TO KEEP
DRUGS OUT OF THE LOCKERS, THE CLASSROOMS AND OFF THE
PLAYGROUNDS OF OUR SCHOOLS; TO REDEEM THE CHILDREN OF
AMERICA FROM THE SCOURGE OF DRUGS.**

- 11 -

IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD, YOU WILL COUNT KILOS OF COCAINE AND MOUNTAINS OF MARIJUANA SEIZED FROM SHIPS AND PLANES. YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MANY LIVES WILL BE SAVED BY YOUR EFFORTS. BUT NEVER FORGET, THAT SAVING LIVES IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU DO.

- 12 -

COMMISSIONER, ADMIRAL, I THANK YOU, AND I SALUTE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF CUSTOMS AND THE COAST GUARD FOR ALL THAT THEY HAVE DONE, AND FOR ALL THAT THEY WILL DO. THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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April 20, 1989
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