## memorandum

DATE: March 15, 1990

REPLY TO

SURJECT: Need for Civic Action Projects in the Upper Huallaga Valley

To: Craig N. Chretien, C/A

THRU: Charles F. Kiefer, G/S

During my last tour in Santa Lucia (02/26/90-03/05/90) I had the opportunity to talk to two sources of information regarding the general attitude of the campesinos towards the Peruvian National Police (Guardia Civil). One source sent by S/A Stacy and one source documented by G/S Bachman and myself (SZH-90-0020). Both explained that the sentiment towards the police and by association DEA was at a very low point. The campesinos feel that the police are in the valley to rob and steal. Unfortunately my personal observations would bear that opinion out. Aside from "seized items" at labs sites such as plastic trash cans, dryers, generators, light bulbs, electrical cords, sheeting material used in filtering process etc, the police are ransacking homes that can't be connected to lab sites. Granted the items are not of a high dollar amount to us (cassette tapes, food, clothing) but they represent prized possessions to the local people.

We have heard and these sources confirm that the Peruvian Army and the Sendero Luminoso have mounted a propaganda campaign towards swaying public opinion against the police but in all honesty the police are their worst enemy. GS Bachman brought this point up many times in evening meetings with the command level at the Base but no changes were visible.

This situation directly affects DEA and the U.S. mission in the UHV. Sentiment is turning against DEA due to the belief that DEA is responsible for bringing the police to this area. The feeling is that without DEA the Police would not be there. Obviously the campesinos are not aware of NAU/INM and U.S. State Department, for good or bad "La DEA" is the catch all.

Being aware of this worsen situation I have had discussions with several medics during my tours in the zone and my Snowcap training in Panama, Quantico, Camp Lejuene and New Orleans and the civic action plans bears some consideration.

The two fold purpose of civic action programs would be very beneficial to Operation Snowcap. One is the obvious turning around of public opinion. This would greatly enhance our early warning system in the village adjacent to the base and in the remote areas where these operations could be started. Secondly the intelligence gathering would be enhanced. general basic knowledge of small cities or villages would greatly enhance our future operational planning. Also periodic visits would project changes or trends. specifically by having a private area for examining, informants could be developed and continued to be debriefed with periodic visits or provide a cover to travel to Santa Lucia. As it is now we land in the town square and talk openly to people in front of the townspeople. To my knowledge, nothing of significance has come of this approach.

I have discussed the logistics of such a program with both Don Pringle and John Berrena, DEA medics assigned to Operation Snowcap/Peru. Both Pringle and Berrena, having had experiences in Central America and Southeast Asia, state that the civic action programs could be done on one day basis periodically thru the valley if the proper medicines were provided. As it stands now other than the major trauma medicines and equipment, the medicines that have been used in Santa Lucia have come from donations or out of pocket. The medicines needed for this type of civic action program would be children's medicine, vitamins, personal hygienic products (such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste) deworming and parasite medicine. Apparently within NAU and DEA budgets there is not money for these types of projects.

After my tour I contacted AID/Health Unit and Nutrition Section and set up a meeting with Charles Mantione section chief. On 15 March 1990 DEA medic John Berrena and myself met with Mantione to explore any possibilities of funding or taking part of any existing program that AID has. Mr. Mantione explained that currently no such programs exist. Mr. Mantione invited Gerardo Arabe into the meeting due to his long time experience in this area and his knowledge of outside programs. Mr. Arabe suggested that maybe a voluntary group would be able to donate the needed medicines. Mr. Arabe advised us that a Ms Judith Ann McElwee R.N. from Medical Missions, Milford Ohio was currently in Lima to meet with local project heads on the other projects. A meeting was set up for 3:00 p.m.

At the 3:00 p.m. meeting I explained to Ms McElwee the basic program that we wanted to start. She explained that she started a voluntary organization to distribute medicines that large companies had excess of or due dates prohibited sale of. Her program has grown to the point where she has

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to turn some of the donations down and has actually thrown some out. Ms McElwee has requested a list of needed medicines so as to advise us if her organization could help. Medic Berrena is preparing the list.

I believe that this approach, if approved, would serve our purposes, enabling the proper medicines being obtained yet avoiding an official project. In this manner a low key inhouse program could be put into place that would benefit Operation Snowcap and other USG anti-narcotics programs.

cc: G/S Charles F. Kiefer
Charles Mantione, HN
Gerardo Arabe, HN
Frank White, OC
G/S Gene Bachman
Medic Don Pringle, OC
Medic John Berrena, OC
S/A Vance Stacy
Cesar Bernal, NAU
DCM Mark Dion

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