Extent

4 folders, approximately 140 pages

Summary

This collection consists of email, cables, and reports of the aftermath from November 9, 1998, when a Colombian Air Force plane that landed in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was discovered to contain over 700 separate packets of cocaine. Many of the cables summarize Colombian newspaper articles and television reports about the discovery of drugs on the plane and the reaction by the Colombian government. The Colombian press attacked the corruption in the Columbian armed forces and officially dubbed the Colombia Air Force, the “Blue Cartel.”

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-0948-F are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA request 2006-0948-F contains records on a November 9, 1998, incident of a Colombian Air Force plane that landed in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and discovered to contain over 700 separate packets of cocaine. United States Customs inspectors noticed that several pallets in the cargo bay had unusual rivets and smelled of fresh glue. After drilling the pallets and extracting the white powder that tested positive for cocaine, inspectors dismantled the pallets and soon found the drug packets on the government plane. Over 1,600 pounds of cocaine on the C-130 Hercules were seized, with an estimated wholesale value of over $12 million. A shipment of approximately 13 pounds of heroin was also found on the same plane. Soon after this discovery, the Colombian Air Force Commander sent a letter of resignation to President Andres Pastrana and was immediately accepted. The Colombian press attacked the corruption in the armed forces and officially dubbed the Colombia Air Force, the “Blue Cartel.” The NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems contain emails and cables on the incident and

reports of the aftermath. For instance, there are many cables that summarize Colombian newspaper articles and television reports about the discovery of drugs on the plane and the reaction by the Colombian government.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in one collection area—Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 2201) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records

Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Geographic Place

Colombia

Topical Subjects

Drug traffic

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2009. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2010-01-05

Container List

"The following is a list of folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-0948-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems (RMS)
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998
[Colombia and Plane...]
[11/10/1998-11/16/1998] [OA/ID 520000]

Jan 1997-Dec 1998
[Colombia and Plane...]
[11/17/1998-12/29/1998] [OA/ID 520000]

NSC Emails
Exchange-Record (Sept 97-Jan 01)
[Colombia and Plane]
[11/10/1998-11/18/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
Exchange-Non-Record (Mar 97-Jan 01)
[Colombia and Plane]
[11/13/1998-11/16/1998] [OA/ID 630000]"