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NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE (based on mass media reports)

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CARICC MEMBER STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



RUSSIA SUGGESTS OAS COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE IN COUNTERING PROPAGANDA OF DRUGS ON INTERNET

BUENOS AIRES, 10 May. /TASS/. Russia is interested in establishing cooperation with members of the Organization of American States (OAS) in combating drug propaganda on the Internet. This was announced on Friday by Russian Ambassador to Argentina Dmitry Feoktistov, speaking at the 65th session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in Buenos Aires.

"Since many online resources containing illegal information are outside Russia, we would like to express our interest in establishing international and bilateral cooperation on this topic with relevant departments of the OAS member states," the diplomat said.

As the ambassador noted, the Russian side is also ready to cooperate on issues of training specialists in the fight against drug trafficking "in specialized centers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Managua and Lima as well as in Russian training centers. According to Feoktistov, 138 policemen from Latin America and the Caribbean have already taken specialized courses in the capital of Nicaragua in 2018. In Peru, trainings were attended by 46 local law enforcement officers.

"Thirteen Latin American operatives received training at the All-Russian Institute for Advanced Studies at Domodedovo," the ambassador added.

<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/6419153>

OTHER COUNTRIES

GEORGIA



HOW DRUGS GET TO GEORGIA

TBILISI, 7 May — Sputnik. Ministry of Internal Affairs believes that there are several ways to get drugs into Georgia, the report said on the website of the Ministry.

According to the ministry, hard drugs come to Georgia from the East through the Ponichala Channel (on the outskirts of Tbilisi). The second channel of distribution of drugs is the Internet, and the third is Europe, from where the "club drugs" come from.

Since the beginning of the year, Interior Ministry officials seized 13 kilograms of heroin, more than 5 kilograms of new psychoactive substances, 1.4 kilograms of cocaine, about 2.4 thousand ecstasy tablets, more than 1.5 thousand tablets of subutex and suboxine and 350 grams of psychotropic drugs.

Starting this year, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has brought to criminal justice for drug crimes 676 people, among them - 55 drug abusers.

<https://sputnik-georgia.ru/incidents/20190507/245150987/Kak-narkotiki-popadayut-v-Tbilisi.html>

MEXICO



MEXICAN PLANS TO LEGALIZE ALL DRUGS AND TO OFFER UNITED STATES TO DO THE SAME

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, presented a new Plan of National Development urging radical reforms in national legislation on drugs and holding negotiations with the United States of America to adopt similar measures.

The plan put forward by the President's Administration calls for legalization of previously illegal drugs and transfer of funds spent on combating them to treatment programs.

Obrador pointed to the failure of the long-standing international war on drugs and called for negotiations with international community (in particular, the United States) to ensure success of a new strategy. The document states that decriminalization of drugs is the "only real possibility" of solving the problem.

"This should be done through negotiations, both bilaterally with the U.S. and multilaterally through the UN," said the Mexican president.

Advocates of drug reform welcomed the Obrador plan.

Steve Hawkins, executive director of the Marijuana Role Project in the United States, told Newsweek that the Mexican president's plan "reflects a shift in thinking about drug policy that is taking place around the world, including in the United States.

The war on drugs cost too much, not only in terms of public resources, but also in terms of human lives, to achieve its goal," Hawkins explained. - Prohibition policies have caused more harm to people than drugs themselves, and they have not been successful in eliminating drug demand or supply.

Last October, the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) published a report highlighting global increase in violence caused by the war on drugs.

In addition, one in five prisoners in the world is behind bars because of drug-related crimes, often simply for possession of cannabis or other illicit substances.

"There is a growing consensus that drug use should be seen as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue," said Hawkins.

Authorities are increasingly aware that they cannot afford to wage war on drugs," said Hawkins. - Leaders are looking for new strategies, as it is happening now in Mexico.

<https://usa.one/2019/05/meksika-xochet-legalizovat-vse-narkotiki-i-prizvat-soedinennye-shtaty-sdelat-to-zhe-samoe/>

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