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President Calderón and the Director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy Reviewed Various Cooperation Mechanisms for Security

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 | Press Release Office of the Presidency



Mexico City.- The Presidency reported that President Felipe Calderón met this afternoon with the Director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske, at the official Los Pinos Residence.

During the working meeting, they reviewed the various cooperation mechanisms regarding security carried out by Mexico and the United States. President Felipe Calderón stressed that increasing joint efforts regarding security from the point of view of joint responsibility and with full respect for

the laws of each country is the best way of dealing with the challenges of organized crime on either side of the border.

Kerlikowske explained that the purpose of this visit has been to confirm bilateral will and cooperation in combating drug trafficking and building capacities to combat drug use. He added that this meeting also reflects the importance President Barack Obama places on this issue in internal politics and bilateral relations with Mexico.

The Mexican President highlighted the importance of U.S. collaboration in combating the trafficking of arms, chemical precursors and illicit money that currently occurs from north to south, adding that his government is fighting a battle to dismantle the operating and financial networks of organized crime that operate in the two countries. Lastly, he added that his administration's commitment to combating criminal organizations is accompanied by the implementation of an integral strategy in the field of prevention and rehabilitation.

Social Development Secretary Presents Program to Rescue Public Spaces to U.S. Drug Czar

Thursday, July 30, 2009 | Press Release Secretariat of Social Development

Mexico City.- Social Development Secretary Ernesto Cordero Arroyo met with the Director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, R. Gil Kerlikowske, to whom he explained the modus operandi of the Program for Rescuing Public Spaces that is part of the preventive social policy implemented by Federal Government against insecurity and violence in Mexico. He said that one of the National Plan of Development's strategies is to promote the construction or remodeling of parks, playing fields and children's recreational areas to restore healthy, safe areas for families to spend time together and encourage community identity and social cohesion and the creation and equality of opportunities and the prevention of anti-social behaviors.



State Force Legitimate Means of Maintaining Order, Legality and Security: President Calderón

Thursday, July 23, 2009 | Office of the Presidency



Salina Cruz.- Oaxaca. Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared that in response to the enemy that organized crime represents, the state has the right and obligation to use all available resources to ensure Mexicans' right to order and peaceful coexistence.

"And that is why the state deploys its force, which is superior to that of criminals and is a legitimate, constitutional force, a legal, democratic and public force, the only one there is and should exist to apply the law with no distinction or exception throughout

the country to strengthen and preserve citizens' security which is now being threatened by these criminals," he said.

He said that in the state's struggle against organized crime, the Mexican Navy is in the first line of combat, adding that Mexican marines' quest for security, legality and justice is also that of all Mexicans.

"Today, Mexico faces new enemies, criminals that challenge the state and its institutions and besiege and harm society and threaten the nation. In the struggle to combat this scourge, the Mexican navy has been in the first line of combat, not only as regards the actions it carries out to combat the harmful, destructive action of drug traffickers. The point is also to destroy the financial and operative structure of organized crime in Mexico that ends up extorting, abducting, robbing and dominating the various forms of community life in Mexico," he said.

During the launching of the *Independencia* Naval Ship in the port of Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, he mentioned the positive results achieved against this scourge during his administration and the major sacrifices made by marines, soldiers and civil servants committed to the nation. He added that together, the operations against the leaders of these criminal structures, the weakening of their structures, and the arrest of the corrupt civil servants that protected them and allowed them to go unpunished have reduced these criminal groups. The determined action of Federal Forces is weakening criminal structures. The criminal leaders who had grown used to operating with absolute impunity and in some cases complicity, with no fear of being arrested, now live under permanent pressure and the threat of being taken to justice," he said.

Accompanied by State Governor Ulises Ruiz and Secretaries of the Navy, Sedena and Public Security: Admiral Mariano Francisco Saynez Mendoza; General Guillermo Galván Galván, and Genaro García Luna, respectively; as well as his wife, Margarita Zavala, the patroness of the *Independencia* naval ship, President Calderón stressed the importance of continuing the program to replace the Mexican navy's units. In this respect, he said that the construction of patrol boats such as the *Independencia*, as well as interceptor patrols in national shipyards reinforces the experience and technological capacity of the national naval industry, while creating jobs for Mexican specialists and workers. He also confirmed Federal Government's commitment to the institutions in charge of security and highlighted the increase in the Navy's budget, which has risen from \$9.1 to \$16 billion pesos.

"This is the realization of the Navy's dreams to use innovation and modernization to replace and strengthen their own fleet. By constantly updating the fleet, Government confirms its commitment to equipping the Armed Forces to enable them to continue fulfilling their mission to unreservedly guarantee national sovereignty and security within the Federation," he said. Lastly, the President urged the crew of the *Independencia* Naval ship and Mexican marines to honor their uniform and carry out the acts entrusted to them with dedication, bravery and perseverance, and with the dedication, responsibility, discipline and loyalty that have always distinguished the Mexican navy.



Mexico's Tourism Shows Signs of Recovery

Secretariat of Tourism, Thursday, July 23th, 2009

Mexico City.- Mexico's Minister of Tourism, Rodolfo Elizondo, has expressed that during this travel season, Mexico has had a significant recuperation in terms of tourism, after the decline that was registered due to the sanitary and world economic crisis. This forecast is due to the adequate actions that the Mexican government has been taking to reactivate the tourism market.

Amongst the said actions, Elizondo highlighted the importance of two movements: the "Vive Mexico" and "Welcome Back" campaigns that have shown satisfactory results by bringing tourists back in record time. For example, after the launch of these campaigns, Mexico received 9.2 million international visitors, which represents 1.9 percent less than the number of visitors in May of 2008.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health informed with his most recent data that there are 14,101 confirmed cases of influenza A H1N1, of which there were only 128 registered deaths. This puts Mexico in third place as far as the number of cases worldwide, with the United States still leading and Argentina now in second place with confirmed cases.

Mexico is already preparing itself for another possible outbreak of the virus during the winter season with a stock of more than two million doses of the antiviral medical treatment oseltamivir and 700 fans and respirators with the goal of guaranteeing the health of its citizens as well as its visitors.

It is important to point out that this protocol against the influenza A H1N1 virus is the same for all the countries that belong to the WHO (World Health Organization) and therefore tourists can feel safe that they will receive the same treatment in Mexico City and in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, that they would in New York or Chicago, since Mexico has assured a great quantity of the treatment.

Mexico sets up Interactive Program for Women with Depression

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 | Press Release Health Secretariat



- *The first of its kind in Spanish, via the Internet and free*
- *Designed at the Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry after three decades of research*

Mexico City.- Women with symptoms of depression can access an interactive program for dealing with this disease anywhere and at any time. In it, they will find information based on broad-ranging, clear and simple scientific evidence.

This program designed at the Health Secretariat's Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry, with the support of the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation, also contains a diagnostic questionnaire enabling those that consult to find out whether or not they are suffering from depression, as well as the addresses and telephone numbers of centers where they can seek attention anywhere in the country.

During an interview, Patricia Fuentes, from the area of Psychosocial Epidemiological Research at the National Institute of Psychiatry highlighted the need for this tool since according to the National Survey on Psychiatric Epidemiology, 4.5% of women and 2% of men in Mexico have experienced a bout of depression. According to the World Health Organization, this disease is on the rise and is one of the most disabling.

Although depression is caused by biological, psychological and social factors, childhood experiences, events and life experiences, it is always more prevalent among women, which is why emphasis has been placed on designing programs to deal with this problem, she added.

Fuentes said that it is crucial to detect depression in time and provide timely treatment, because when problems are caught at the initial stage, they can be dealt with using various treatments to prevent them from evolving to more serious stages.

This program, which can be found at www.ayudaparadepresion.org.mx is a safe, serious alternative, based on scientific evidence, free and available not only for women but for anyone interested.

It began operating in March of this year, with 900 women registering to date. These women tend have completed high-school or university, are married and aged between 18 and 50.

The program comprises seven interactive modules designed to encourage reflection and changes in the way personal problems and the environment are perceived through readings, recorded messages and practical activities in addition to interaction with other persons with this problem through photos and chat rooms. However, Fuentes pointed out, this is not therapy via the Internet.

The contents were developed at the National Institute of Psychiatry as the result of a psychosocial research project undertaken over three decades showing that one of the factors influencing drug or alcohol consumption is depression, treatment of which will reduce the risk of addictions.

The program involved translating knowledge to make it accessible to the general population, Fuentes explained.

Source: Media and Communications Office. Health Secretariat (HEALTH).