GODR personnel, working with U.S. law enforcement, made several multihundred kilo cocaine seizures in 1994. The GODR was especially helpful in arranging the return of several major drug figures who were fugitives from U.S. justice.

Threat assessments indicate an increased flow of narcotics into the Dominican Republic from Haiti, especially since the September 1991 coup in Haiti. Maritime shipments from Panama are also increasing. The DNCD and Dominican Navy, working in concert with DEA, interdicted one such maritime shipment on November 22, seizing nearly a metric ton of cocaine and uncovering a major smuggling operation.

During 1994, a wide range of USG-financed professional training (law enforcement, drug abuse prevention, financial investigations, and canine handling assessment) was provided to DNCD personnel and other military and civilian officials. The GODR complied fully with its commitments under the bilateral counternarcotics assistance agreement.

The Dominican Republic became a party to the UN Convention in late 1993 and has taken action consistent with the goals and objectives of the UN Convention. Additional legislation, however, is needed in areas such as money laundering and asset seizure to enable the GODR to comply more fully with the Convention. The GODR has been active in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the United Nations Drug Control Program. It hosted the 1994 United Nations Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies Conference for Latin America and will host the Latin American International Drug Enforcement Conference in April 1995. It has established cooperative relationships with a number of other governments in the hemisphere, most recently signing a bilateral drug cooperation agreement with Venezuela.

The GODR still faces many challenges in establishing an effective national anti-drug effort. While it has taken steps to address narcotics-related and other official corruption, corruption continues to undermine GODR law enforcement efforts. Anti-drug legislation, while strengthened, has serious flaws; in the area of money laundering control, for example, the Dominican legislature removed prison sentences, leaving only moderate fines for bankers convicted of involvement in laundering activities. The GODR will resubmit the package in 1995 to correct this.

## **Ecuador**

Ecuador is a bridge between the world's largest supplier of coca leaf, Peru, and the world's major processor of cocaine hydrochloride, Colombia. Traffickers use Ecuador as a transit point to ship 30–50 metric tons (mt) of cocaine per year to the United States and Europe, as well as to smuggle chemicals into Colombia for cocaine processing. Money launderers take advantage of Ecuador's loose banking laws and extensive offshore banking system to conceal the illicit nature of their proceeds.

Ecuadorian judges are subject to trafficker intimidation and subornation, which has obstructed efforts to bring Cali-connected kingpin Jorge Reyes Torres to justice. Corrupt judicial practices have precluded indictments in Reyes Torres-related cases, specifically the Banco De Los Andes case. Stronger resolve by the Government of Ecuador (GOE) to confront judicial corruption will be necessary to successfully conclude the Jorge Reyes Torres case and other counternarcotics initiatives.

Ecuador made significant strides this year toward complying with the 1988 UN Convention, to which it is a party. The government has taken steps to generally meet the goals of bilateral counternarcotics agreements with the USG on enforcement, demand reduction, and prosecutions of major narcotics traffickers. The GOE enacted a law based on OAS model legislation on asset sharing and completed a study to determine the amount of licit chemical use in Ecuador.