counternarcotics efforts were not adequate to meet the goals and objectives of the 1988 UN Convention. Nevertheless, the risks posed to vital U.S. national interests from the possible consequences of terminating U.S. assistance, as noted above, greatly outweigh the risks posed by the lack of complete GOB cooperation on counternarcotics. With recent positive signs of action from the GOB, the USG will enter into further discussions to secure commitments for action in key areas.

## Colombia

In 1994, Colombia remained the world's largest supplier of cocaine and the source of virtually all the cocaine imported into the United States. There are currently more than 111,000 acres (45,000 hectares) of coca being cultivated, a 13.3 percent increase over 1993 and, if such cultivation is not contained and crops are not eradicated, Colombia could soon surpass Bolivia as the second largest source of coca after Peru. Colombia is also a significant supplier of heroin and one of the largest cultivators of opium poppy in the world, along with Burma, Afghanistan and Laos. Recent data indicate that after having been suppressed over the last few years, Colombia's marijuana cultivation and export to the United States is again increasing. The expected diminution in the movement and flow of narcotics originating in Colombia as a result of the destruction of the Medellin syndicate in 1993 did not materialize. It is apparent that the removal of Pablo Escobar and his drug empire from the Colombia narcotics scene only benefited the now-dominant syndicate headquartered in the city of Cali.

During 1994, the USG and the Government of Colombia (GOC) collaborated on a number of fronts against the scourge of narcotics trafficking in both countries. The GOC had some successes. GOC performance on a number of critical issues, however, was inadequate. Among the successes attained by the GOC were ratification of the 1988 UN Convention which entered into force for Colombia in September 1994, the legalization of the herbicide glyphosate for use against coca cultivation, the defeat of a bill in Congress supported by narco-traffickers that would have diluted the existing illicit enrichment law, the indictment of Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, and an aerial eradication campaign against illicit cultivation, which the GOC has pressed in the face of large-scale protests by the cultivators. Colombia remains the only producer of coca currently permitting aerial eradication of illegal crops.

Individual police and other officials operating at the ground level show considerable determination to bring narcotics traffickers to justice. Sporadic and ambivalent support by some quarters of the Colombian political establishment prevents significant damage to the Colombian drug syndicates. In 1994, the GOC took no legislative steps to reverse the 1993 revision of the criminal procedures code which made it more difficult to bring midlevel and senior syndicate heads to justice. As a result, following the trend set in 1993, there were no arrests, incarcerations, or fines imposed on such traffickers. In addition, a number of previously convicted traffickers were able to benefit from significant reductions in their sentences pursuant to Colombia's woefully lenient sentencing laws. The GOC's inability to protect and use information provided to them by the U.S. Justice Department has made impossible a full resumption of our previous law enforcement evidence-sharing relationship. The GOC has been informed that evidence obtained in the United States will not be provided for any new criminal cases pending a successful resolution of old cases for which we have provided evidence.

In 1994, total drug seizures through interdiction efforts were above those of 1993 but did not reach the levels accomplished in 1991 (86.35 mt) as the USG had recommended to the GOC. Performance on eradication has improved, but results to date have not met expectations. Even with increased USG-provided air and herbicide assets, the amount of opium poppy eradicated was almost 50 percent less than in 1993. As for coca the numbers are impressive (4,500+ hectares vs. 793 ha in 1993). They might have been