

One Hundredth Congress

Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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May 17, 1988

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It is my understanding that the Committee is preparing draft legislation on narcotics, including language regarding presidential certification of major illicit drug-producing or transit countries, for use in an omnibus drug bill. The Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs is very interested in this issue, and we would appreciate it if you would let us know what the process and timeframe will be for consideration of additional language in this important area. In particular, I would request that legislation affecting the jurisdiction of this Subcommittee be referred to us for appropriate action under our normal procedures.

Although certification requirements and other narcotics-related aid cut-off measures are not necessarily region-specific, as a practical matter they affect Latin America and the Caribbean almost exclusively. It is important that the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs be protected and that the full range of U.S. foreign policy interests in the region be brought to bear on the consideration of these matters.

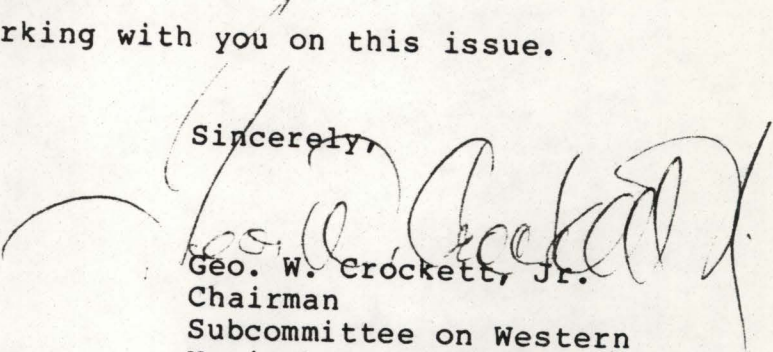
As you know, the Subcommittee recently held a hearing and mark-up on resolutions of decertification for five countries in the hemisphere. I remain very concerned about the impact of the certification process on our relations with these countries and want to be sure that the Subcommittee is fully involved in any decisions being made which could affect U.S. relations with countries under the

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell
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jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Western
Hemisphere Affairs