1. On January 20, 2000, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Bogota Country Office (CO) Country Attaché (CA) Leo Arreguin reported via memorandum, that Miami Division Group 43 confidential source (CS) Baruch Vega may have created serious problems and damage to the DEA Operation Millennium investigation. (Note: The Operation Millennium investigation was a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency investigation conducted by Miami Division Group 9 and the Bogota CO. The investigation tied drug trafficking activity within the U.S. to the highest levels of the international cocaine trade. The operation concluded in October 1999 with the arrest of 31 individuals.) According to CA Arreguin, Mr. Vega was exploiting his position as a DEA CS to extort money from high level Colombian traffickers by utilizing a "corruption scheme," wherein Mr. Vega led traffickers to believe he was associated with corrupt DEA Special Agents (SA) and prosecutors, who if paid large sums of money would arrange extremely lenient sentences for these traffickers in the U.S. CA Arreguin also charged that Mr. Vega showed SA Nick Kolen a list of thirteen names, of which three were Operation Millennium fugitives. CA Arreguin reported Mr. Vega claimed he received the list directly from a trafficker, under the pretext of having Mr. Vega determine if the remaining family members of the trafficker were wanted or under investigation by U.S. law enforcement personnel. CA Arreguin further related SA Lawrence Castillo informed the Bogota CO that Mr. Vega had made contact with DEA fugitive and Operation Millennium target identified as Luis Hernando Gomez-Bustamante, (also known as "Rasguno"). According to CA Arreguin, SA Castillo was instructed to contact the Bogota CO before finalizing a meeting with Mr. Gomez-Bustamante. CA Arreguin reported it was later learned by the Bogota CO that SA Castillo had met with Mr. Gomez-Bustamante for two days in Panama without notifying the Bogota CO, the Office of International Operations, the Department of Justice, or the DEA Richmond Resident Office, which was the office responsible for the indictment of Mr. Gomez-Bustamante. It was also indicated that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Theresa Van Vliet, the prosecutor for the Operation Millennium investigation, reported these allegations against Mr.Vega to AUSA Richard Scruggs, Chief of the Public Corruption Unit for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami, Florida. CA Arreguin reported two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) SAs had been assigned to investigate the allegations. Based on CA Arreguin's memorandum, on February 1, 2000, Deputy Chief Inspector (DCI) William C. Brown, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) initiated an OPR investigation into the allegations of corruption concerning SA Lawrence Castillo and Group Supervisor (GS) David Tinsley. **[TAB 1]**

2. On March 22, 2000, the FBI Miami Division Public Corruption Squad arrested Mr. Vega and DEA CS [redacted] for Obstruction of Justice and Money Laundering charges. These charges stemmed from Mr. Vega and Mr. [redacted] involvement in the alleged "corruption scheme," whereby they charged indicted Colombian fugitives large sums of money to facilitate their surrender and subsequent cooperation with U.S. law enforcement officials. **[TAB 2]**

3. On March 22, 2000, FBI SAs executed a search warrant at Mr. Vega's residence located at 100 Lincoln Road, Penthouse #5, Miami Beach, Florida. Analysis of evidence seized from Mr. Vega's residence revealed numerous documents pertinent to this investigation including airline and hotel receipts, credit card statements, a lease/purchase agreement plus rental receipts for a Hawker aircraft, and correspondence from Operation Millennium defendant Gustavo Gallego and Defense Attorney Daniel Forman. The FBI also seized $453,982 in U.S. currency and $56,253 in money orders from Mr. Vega's residence. **[TAB 3]**

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