

“The Role of Guyana and Dominica in the Eastern Caribbean Illicit Trafficking Pipeline”

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The Eastern Caribbean illicit trafficking pipeline (ECTP) was established by the Mexican Transnational Trafficking Organisations (MTTOs) to move cocaine and heroin to trafficking export points to the US, Canada and the EU in the Eastern and Northern Caribbean island chain. The primary target of the MTTOs is to place cocaine and heroin in the US Caribbean territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands for transshipment to the US mainland. An Associated Press (AP) report dated January 13, 2016 reported that US Federal authorities indicated on the 11 January 2016 that for fiscal year 2015 interdictions of cocaine (16,000 kilos) had increased by nearly 10% and marijuana (8,000 kilos) by 138% over 2014 in the waters/coastline of both US Caribbean territories. Whilst cocaine interdictions grew the size of the intercepted payloads fell (www.military.com). The said news report also stated that seizures by the Puerto Rico police of heroin and marijuana increased by 170% and cocaine by 47% in 2015. What US authorities didn't state is that the smaller payloads seized is as a result of the operational strategy of the ECTP and its dominance over trafficking to these US territories. What must be noted also is the explosion in the volume of Caribbean grown ganja/marijuana being trafficked to these US territories for entry into the drug markets of the US north-east especially New York city and the reality that Puerto Rico continues to be inundated with the tsunami of illicit product. This assault continues at the present time when Puerto Rico is faced with serious economic problems and Puerto Ricans are leaving for the US mainland in droves. The secondary target is to place cocaine in the overseas territories, departments and affiliated states of members of the EU such as the Departments of France Martinique and Guadeloupe, the British territories as the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Montserrat and the affiliated state of Sint Maarten of The Netherlands and its territories of Saba and Statia/St Eustatius. As in the case of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands these islands are trafficking export points to specific drug markets of the North Atlantic. A multiplicity of export points to Canada operate in the English speaking Caribbean exploiting the historical ties of Canada with the former British Caribbean and the urban English speaking Caribbean diaspora in Canada. It must be understood that these export points exist in an area of the Caribbean that is wide open for trafficking operations as the states in this island chain including those with US and EU governance presence have singularly failed to respond in a timely manner to the threat posed by the MTTOs to the security of these states and the region. When there has been a response as in the case of the US in its territories it has been one of circling the wagons to create inward looking fortress states with a security apparatus being built on economies in chronic stress and state institutions riddled with corruption and underdevelopment in the face of the threats posed by the MTTOs. Most importantly this process to create the fortress state will rest on a social order in which the order of the MTTOs is now hegemonic in the underworld of these territories. The new order of gangland Puerto Rico is indicative of this reality of the hegemonic order of the MTTOs. The English speaking island states of the EC have made no response to the threat posed by the MTTOs and the ECTP. Successive governments continue to respond to escalating gun violence and murders but with no effective response to trafficking with the result being gun violence levels that continue to defy attempts to mitigate it. The MTTOs continue to implement their strategies on the ground in these states unopposed and it's now clearly apparent that the strategy to evolve Barbados into the premier export point of the EC is now well advanced with all the signs of this reality on the ground clearly apparent today. The MTTOs strategy to globalise the production and export of Caribbean grown organic, high potency marijuana is well advanced in the ECTP with St Vincent as a production point for this high value Caribbean marijuana/ganja that is moved through the pipeline to export points to the North-East US especially New York City where the wholesale price of this product per lb and the different incarceration regime for those charged with ganja trafficking compared to cocaine and heroin spurs involvement in trafficking from the Caribbean

to the US. The wholesale price per lb in New York city of this Caribbean grown ganja has now made swallowing ganja profitable as a trafficking method to New York city. This specialist product also enters the pipeline to the EU. Jamaican produced organic, high potency ganja also enters the pipeline for distribution from export points to the North-East US and the EU. What must be understood is the reality that the value of this specialist ganja has spawned the use of mules and swallows to traffick this product to the US, the EU and in the Caribbean. This is not plantation grade ganja for the low end market this is for the ganja gourmet of the North Atlantic. The MTTOs of the Caribbean have invested heavily in expanding and globalising this Caribbean product and their affiliates from Caribbean gangland control this trade especially those from Jamaican gangland. This investment is seen in the search for other production points in the EC where soil and climatic conditions enable the production of top quality ganja and in this quest Guyana is now a major producer of ganja destined for Brazilian and other markets.

Guyana situated on the north coast of South America and bounded by the North Atlantic, Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela has now joined Venezuela as the major suppliers of product entering the ECTP. This reality is apparent for the following reasons: Guyanese registered vessels with Guyanese crews have been interdicted trafficking cocaine to Ghana from Guyana and marijuana from Jamaica to Guyana, Guyanese nationals and residents of the US and Canada have been convicted of being members of trafficking organisations that moved cocaine from Guyana to the US and Canada, Guyanese nationals who are residents of the EC and visitors have been convicted for possession and trafficking of cocaine in EC states, Guyanese mules and swallows continue to be interdicted at international airports in the US and Canada who arrived on flights that originated in Guyana with loads of cocaine swallowed or on their bodies and/or in their luggage that are way above the Caribbean Basin norm for loads placed with mules and swallows for entry to the US and Canada, mules and swallows interdicted at Guyanese international airports now include non-Guyanese nationals charged with loads of cocaine that defy the norm seeking to enter the US and Canada (see References). The picture painted by interdictions is a Guyanese drug market awash in product and a strategy to turn Guyana into a primary export point for the export of cocaine to North America. The whole gamut of trafficking methodologies are presently utilised: containerised cargo, human couriers and implantation in the body of vessels and products destined for North America. But there is another parallel trafficking reality and this is the movement of loads of cocaine from Guyana through the ECTP for entry into the export points as Puerto Rico listed above. When both realities are combined the operational presence of the MTTOs in Guyana is obvious. On August 16, 2014 Kaieteur News online (www.kaieteurnews.com) reported that a fully operational self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS) was discovered at a creek that feeds into the Waini River in Waini, North-West District, Region 1, Guyana. From the press report it is obvious that the vessel was built and outfitted at the said creek in Waini and it was awaiting the arrival of its illicit load and order for departure as no illicit drugs were found in the vessel or at the camp site. On December 5, 2015 Kaieteur News online (www.kaieteurnews.com) reported that a fiber-glass go-fast boat outfitted with a powerful inboard engine was found in the jungle in the Waini Point area, North-West District, Region 1, Guyana. The go-fast boat is outfitted contrary to the norm governing go-fast boats that make the run from the Colombian and Venezuelan coasts to the Dominican Republic as outboard engines are the norm. The boat at Waini points to the need for speed backed up by refueling stops in the ECTP dispensing illicitly smuggled fuel from Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. The Waini area is then a haven for specialist craft designed to carry loads of product over distances in the Caribbean that involve the movement from the coast of South America to the Northern Caribbean island chain. The movement is then from Guyana via the ECTP to the export points with planned stopovers in various islands as dictated by the trafficking strategies adopted. On December 10, 2015 Kaieteur News online (www.kaieteurnews.com) reported that the government of Guyana had signed an MOU with the US DEA for the creation of a vetted counter-narcotics investigative unit within the Guyanese Customs

Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU). The said unit will be created by and all costs for its creation borne by the US DEA. That this unit will be operational in a country where the DEA today has no legal, public operational presence points to the potency of the threats to US interests presently emanating from Guyana. Finally Guyana's borders that exist only as lines on a map and its geographic position especially its border with Brazil has resulted in Guyana being an export point for cocaine and marijuana to Brazil. This is Guyana's prime directive under the strategy of the MTTOs and in keeping with the strategic order of the MTTOs it is expected that coca paste is being flown in and/or moved via the rivers for the production of powdered cocaine for export to Brazil and the methamphetamine labs to follow if not already existing are a given. Guyana simply does not have the military assets to control its land and air space and the resources to purchase such resources but it remains a neighbor of the fastest growing cocaine market in the Western Hemisphere and possibly the world Brazil. Guyana is then the playground of the MTTOs, their partner in trafficking the Ndrangheta and their affiliates from Caribbean gangland in the 21st century. This position as an export point to Brazil for the MTTOs has then brought Guyana into play as a supplier of product to the ECTP today and this trafficking reality has resulted in a Guyanese drug market flooded with product which feeds a frenzy of trafficking and a crime wave noted for graphic crimes of violence against the person. A news report dated January 7, 2016 in the Guyana Chronicle online titled "Smuggled...FBI reports about 15,000 ounces of gold being smuggled out of Guyana" (<http://guyanachronicle.com>) reported that the US FBI and US Homeland Security in their report to the Guyanese government on gold smuggling out of Guyana stated that some 15,000 ounces of gold were smuggled out of Guyana weekly to Brazil, Suriname, Europe, the US and the Middle East. Gold smuggled into Guyana from Colombia and Venezuela was part of the gold smuggled out of Guyana on a weekly basis according to the US report. From the news report it is then apparent that gold smuggling into and from Guyana to international destinations is under the control of transnational organised crime as is the trafficking of illicit drugs and one expects gold, illicit drug smuggling, human smuggling and small arms smuggling are all on the menu of illicit activities of transnational organised crime in Guyana. A news report dated January 25, 2013 in the Curacao Chronicle online (<http://curacaochronicle.com>) titled "US authorities want an investigation of gold smuggling cases" stated that the US wanted an investigation of gold smuggling between Curacao and the US as it has been going on for some 15 years with gold from Guyana being smuggled via Curacao to the US. Gold from Guyana is smuggled into and exported from Curacao with all the necessary legal documents indicating transnational organised crime operating in both Curacao and Guyana with impunity.

On December 18, 2015 the Latin American Herald Tribune (www.laht.com) reported the seizure of a small submarine on a river in Para state, Brazil that was allegedly constructed for illicit drug trafficking to the US and Europe. From the photos of the vessel made public the vessel is clearly incomplete but the strategic scenario conjured up with this seizure posits Brazil as an export point utilising said craft and those vessels on their way carrying product destined for the US drug markets will traverse the Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), ECTP illicit pipeline (GT&TECTP). The strategic reality is that these small submarines operating the GT&TECTP have raised the level of military engagement necessary to interdict drug vessels to a level where all states of the GT&TECTP presently cannot respond and only those of the North Atlantic with interests in the pipeline can respond. Whilst these states focus on Central America the MTTOs have opened a new front that demands an entirely new response with assets that are presently not committed to this area of the Caribbean. Failure to respond effectively will result in 2016 the final consolidation of the hegemonic order of the MTTOs over the Eastern and Southern Caribbean.

The Commonwealth of Dominica is an island of the Eastern Caribbean island chain bounded by the North Atlantic ocean to its east, the Caribbean Sea to its west, the French overseas department of Guadeloupe to its north-west and the French overseas department of Martinique to its south-east. The relatively small economy of Dominica is yet to be fully integrated into the globalised order seen in the

reality that there is no airport in Dominica with a jet rating but in the 21st century the seizures of cocaine in Dominican territory have exploded with the quantum of cocaine seized way outstripping demand on the Dominican drug market coupled with the arrest of Dominican nationals for involvement in the illicit drug trade of the Eastern Caribbean in conjunction with nationals of Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Eastern Caribbean states. A news report dated November 7, 2013 titled “Dominican, Venezuelan arrested in St Lucia cocaine bust” posted on <http://dominicanewsonline.com> reported that a Dominican national and a Venezuelan were interdicted by the St Lucian coast guard on the vessel Maria Posa in possession of 75 kilos of cocaine in St Lucian waters. A news report dated November 12, 2014 titled “Dominican implicated in Antigua cocaine bust” posted on <http://dominicanews.com> reported that a Dominican national was one of six men charged with possession of 50 kilos of cocaine in Antigua along with nationals of Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Antigua. A news report dated December 10, 2012 titled “Police seize 70 kilos of cocaine” posted on <http://dominicanews.com> reported that three Dominicans and one Colombian were intercepted in Dominica's waters in a go-fast boat outfitted with two 200 HP outboard engines with 70 kilos of cocaine on-board. These news reports illustrate the reality that the illicit drug trade of Dominica is globalised, fully integrated into the illicit trades of the Caribbean. They also indicate the trafficking methodology of the ECTP to move relatively small amounts of product at a specific instance via a plurality of trafficking means: the tsunami effect. Dominica is then a unique reality within the illicit trades of the Caribbean as the island does not have the necessary linkages to become a direct export point to consumer markets of the North Atlantic or the level of local demand to drive a viable drug market but in spite of these hindrances the illicit trade of Dominica is of strategic importance within the ECTP. What became apparent in 2015/16 from Police seizures of cocaine in Dominica is the dispersal of cocaine stock across the island indicating the volume of product entering and leaving the island and the key role of the Dominican drug trade in the ECTP today. Examples are seizures at Layou, Stock Farm and Tan Tan. French media reports in 2012/2013 stated that Guadeloupe was now a major export point for cocaine to France seen in the number of persons with cocaine interdicted traveling from Guadeloupe to France. On April 29, 2103 the trial of 13 persons, nationals of Dominica and Guadeloupe, charged with trafficking drugs and other contraband between Dominica and Guadeloupe commenced in Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe. The charges laid involved the importation of marijuana, cocaine and guns into Guadeloupe from Dominica for the period 2010 to the middle of 2012. The person identified as the dominant supplier to this network is a Dominican national according to the French police in Guadeloupe. It is noteworthy that the said individual was arrested at Gatwick airport, England on a French warrant upon his arrival at Gatwick from the Caribbean but the extradition request for the individual was refused in a UK court given the inhumane conditions of the prisons on Guadeloupe that contravened EU policies.

In the decade of the 1970's Colombian traffickers arrived in the Eastern Caribbean (EC) surveying the terrain towards exporting cocaine to Europe from the EC. Sea and air routes were the main trafficking means short-listed with yachts, the banana transports to Europe, airlines and air passengers listed as the primary trafficking means/methods. Special interest was placed on the strategy of turning the territories and departments of EU nations in the EC into export points to the EU. In the operationalisation of this strategy Dominica found its niche. Dominicans have always crossed into Guadeloupe as economic migrants or as smugglers of contraband or both and this movement of Dominicans to Guadeloupe created a Dominican diaspora in Guadeloupe. Dominican traffickers in the 1970s pioneered the movement of Dominican grown ganja to Guadeloupe and over the years the Dominican traffickers without depending on transnational trafficking organisations became accomplished smugglers and traffickers noted for their navigation skills in EC waters. The Colombian traffickers conceptualised and planted the seeds of EC international trafficking but never brought it to fruition. The MTTOs in the 21st century created the ECTP and flooded the pipeline with product and the best placed EC based traffickers to exploit this opportunity is the Dominican traffickers which they

have grabbed with both hands. It is now apparent that the special skill set of the Dominican traffickers has earned them affiliate status with the MTTOs and their partners and this reality will impact the social order of Dominica as affiliate status brings access to all the illicit commodities trafficked by the MTTOs. The response of governments of the EC to the ECTP is absent at best whilst the pipeline's capacity expands. Members of the EU as France who have placed naval assets in the EC can only boast of vessels with multi tonne loads intercepted on their way to the EU. A strategy which is blind to the ECTP as vessels with tonne and multi-tonne loads are not utilised in the ECTP. Effective engagement with the pipeline is a longterm daily grind that does not yield fantastic political photo opportunities and this is deliberate design by the MTTOs. What must be accepted is the reality that the MTTOs and their partners supported by their affiliates possess the resources to control specific states of the EC. Will there be a response when this becomes manifest? Judging from the past it will be denial, hand wringing and business as usual as the politicians of the EC states contort their public discourses to mask the accommodation with the MTTOs, their partners and their affiliates. It is a fact of history that civilisations collapse and are replaced behold the new order being established the order of Pax Mexicana!

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