

**MEETING OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL MEDINA MORA**

Attorney General's Conference Room

November 16, 2007

(Friedrich, O'Connor/Roth, Swartz)

PURPOSE

Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora wishes to meet with you to reaffirm the high importance he places on continuing the close bilateral law enforcement relationship he established with Attorney General Gonzales. Attorney General Medina Mora's visit coincides with the fall meeting of the US/Mexico Senior Law Enforcement Plenary ("SLEP"), chaired by DOJ/CRM, which brings together a number of working groups that focus on US/Mexico law enforcement issues.

BACKGROUND

RC-2



G. Arms Trafficking

Mexico has repeatedly expressed concern regarding the smuggling of weapons from the US into Mexico, which the Government of Mexico asserts has fueled the violence of Mexican drug cartels. See, e.g., "US Guns Behind Cartel Killings in Mexico," *Washington Post*, 10/29/07, A01 (noting the 9/24 assassination of a Mexican state police officer, and an attack on the same day on a federal police office in Tijuana, and stating: "The high-powered guns used in both incidents on the evening of Sept. 24 undoubtedly came from the United States, say police here [in Mexico], who estimate that 100 percent of drug-related killings are committed with smuggled US weapons.")

In response to these concerns, DOJ's ATF has committed significant resources to address the issue of gun smuggling into Mexico. ATF has three attaches in Mexico City, and two TDY agents in Monterrey. During this past week, more than 30 ATF agents and analysts have been meeting at the El Paso Intelligence Center ("EPIC") as part of the Southwest Border Initiative's "Project Gunrunner." ATF's goals are to coordinate Federal law enforcement activities on the U.S. side of the border involving gun smuggling, and to work cooperatively with its counterparts in Mexico to improve information sharing, assist them in improving their training and technological capacity, and increase the number and quality of firearms trace requests from Mexico. One critical part of this effort is to for the USG to fund Spanish E-trace, which would allow Mexican law enforcement submit firearms trace requests to ATF's National Tracing Center.

Of particular importance, ATF has recently worked jointly with Mexico on the first-ever attempt to have a controlled delivery of weapons being smuggled into Mexico by a major arms trafficker. While the first attempts at this controlled delivery have not been successful, the investigation is ongoing, and ATF would like to expand the possibility of such joint investigations and controlled deliveries – since only then will it be possible to investigate an entire smuggling network, rather than arresting simply a single smuggler. To that end, it is essential that a Mexican vetted unit be assigned to work with ATF in this regard. ATF's attache in Mexico City has briefed Attorney General Medina Mora on this attempted controlled delivery, and stressed the importance of such a vetted unit being assigned.

H. Asset Forfeiture/ Money Laundering