laws that have been harmonized can law enforcement agencies, working
together with financial institution administrators and regulators, combat this
ever-increasing problem.

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Скумін В.,
курсант Національної академії внутрішніх справ
Консультант з мови: Скриник М.В.

AMERICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING STRATEGY IN MEXICO

Today, Mexico is the main drug supplier in the United States. As you
know, the United States ranks first in the world in drug use, respectively, in
neighboring Mexico, at one moment it became profitable to use this
American weakness. The drug business in the country began to flourish, and
with it the first drug cartels began to appear. Only from 2005 to 2010 on the
southern border of the USA, the number of marijuana seizures increased by
49%, methamphetamine - by 54%, heroin - by 297%, and ecstasy - by 839%
[1].

In 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderon decided to put the end
of the unrest in the country and declared war on the drug cartels. He tried to
resist the corruption of the police, which grew to unimaginable limits and
was explained, first of all, by the minimum earnings of Mexican police
officers. Calderon also added tens of thousands of troops to help the local
police in the Mexican states, and in most cases completely replaced the
local police forces.

Under this program, the military made several high-profile arrests
and killings of cartel leaders. For example, in October 2012, Heriberto
Lazcano, the leader of one of the most powerful Mexican cartels of Los
Zetas, was killed. As part of bilateral cooperation with the United States,
Mexicans managed to capture 25 of the 37 most wanted drug lords in Mexico [2].

All this time, the United States saw the problem mainly only in Mexico, with less attention paid to its drug users. Therefore, the next program to support Mexico’s domestic fight against drug cartels was a program to provide funds for the purchase of weapons and equipment, as well as military training, called the Merida Initiative or the Mexico Plan. In fact, it was supposed to help Mexico to eradicate problems with illegal crime, as well as normalize the situation on the common border, both in relation to migration and in matters of drug trafficking. But unlike previous bilateral actions, Merida was based on the fact that the United States ranks first in the world in terms of drug use,

Almost in parallel with Merida, in 2006 governments began to carry out the Coronado Project, which lasted almost 4 years and ended with the famous operation to destroy the Mexican drug cartel La Familia. Its essence was approximately the same as that of the above operation. During the program, 1200 people were caught who were involved in the drug business in one way or another. On the US side, more than 3,000 federal and municipal agents participated only in the final two-day operation against La Familia, during which 729 pounds of methamphetamine, 62 kilograms of cocaine and 967 pounds of marijuana were seized [3].

However, despite all the actions taken, the drug war in Mexico continues to this day, and unilateral action, even with US support, is not enough for Mexico. Therefore, it seems rational mother measures in the United States itself as the level of drug use by Americans remains very high, demand does not decrease, and Americans continue to sell firearms to Mexicans. Of course, as a solution, many propose the abolition of criminal liability for the use and possession of drugs, in particular marijuana - one of the most used drugs in the United States. But such a development of events is unlikely to help, since the loss of marijuana in the drug cartel markets will, of course, affect the cartel’s finances, but only slightly: savvy dealers will find another way to make money. In addition, differences in US state law must be considered. In some of them, taxes on certain consumer goods may vary, so they are also sold on the so-called gray market.

Another solution to this problem is to decriminalize drug users and provide them with mandatory medical services. A controversial point of view, but in a report setting out these ideas, the Commission on Drug Policy referred to the successful implementation of decriminalization programs in Portugal and Australia [4].

Also, the elimination and capture of drug lords and cartel leaders may be a solution, but this is already a completed stage and he did not show
the necessary results. In the place of some leaders, others come, and those arrested have proved that they are able to manage their drug organizations while in custody. It is worth citing the example of the leader of the drug cartel Sinaloa, Joaquin Guzman, nicknamed Shorty, who was repeatedly arrested, but he managed to escape from the most protected prisons in both the USA and Mexico. But on January 19, 2017, Shorty was nevertheless handed over to the American authorities and will receive a life sentence, which means that the world famous drug cartel will have to look for a new leader [5].

Strengthening border protection, tightening migration policies, as well as mass arrests also did not affect the business of drug cartels, as dealers not only began to transit drugs by land, but also by air, water and underground. In addition, according to the report of the US border service, one in four out of five drug detainees turns out to be a US citizen [6]. Dealers recruit ordinary American citizens, threaten them, offer huge amounts of money, etc.

Thus, we can conclude that, perhaps, only Latin American countries, including Mexico, can stop this drug boom and the accompanying drug war. Mexico should legalize cocaine, as its wave descends on the United States, which will not be able to stop it. By moving drugs from the black market, the government will thus be able to destroy the source of the huge income of the drug cartels, which will greatly weaken their position. If this happens, the entire regime of world control over drugs and drug trafficking will collapse. Accordingly, the war for drugs will become meaningless. Of course, the developed countries, together with the USA, which are the main consumers, will have to choose solutions to the problem arising from this, which can boil down to the same legalization and simultaneous development of the national healthcare institute in the field of drugs, as well as decriminalization of consumers, i.e. in the future, it may be more rational for America to pursue a policy aimed at minimizing the harm from drugs, rather than trying to limit drug trafficking.

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Споденейко А.,
курсант Національної академії внутрішніх справ
Консультант з мови: Грицук І.П.

Kriminalität in Deutschland: Sittlichkeitsdelikte