



## **U.S. Embassy Belize** *Press Release*

April 19, 2004

### **Equipment for National Drug Abuse Control Council**

On Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Ambassador Russell Freeman officially handed over computer equipment to the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC). Mr. Ornel Brooks, Executive Director of NDACC, was on hand to accept the donation.

This contribution to the NDACC, courtesy of the Narcotics Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, includes two computers, a server, textbooks, manuals and payment for a system support intern. The donation is worth over BZ\$ 30,000 and will be used for research of the Transitional Digital Government Research Project.

The focus of this project is the exchange of real-time information sharing between countries, and in different languages, aimed at restricting the movement of drug traffickers and the eradication of drug trafficking within the hemisphere. This project is the first prototype of an experimental system that will address issues identified by collaborating agencies.

The Belize National Observatory on Drugs is conducting this project under the direction of the National Drug Abuse Control Council. They have been working in collaboration with local agencies such as the University of Belize and Immigration and Nationality Services Department as well as with the Dominican Republic's Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre and Maestra, the U.S. National Science Foundations, and the Organization of American States.



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