



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

~~SECRET~~
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2400

(10)

INFO MEMO

I-02/000421

DepSec Action _____

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs
(Peter W. Rodman, 695-4351) *WPR* 10 JAN 2002

SUBJECT: Phone Call to Colombian CHOD (U)

~~(S)~~ At USD(P) Doug Feith's suggestion, VCJCS General Pace telephoned today to Colombian Chief of Staff General Fernando Tapias – whom he knows well – to ask what lay behind President Pastrana's latest initiative on the guerrilla safehaven. (Pastrana on Wednesday gave the FARC 48 hours to evacuate the safehaven – the so-called *despeje*.) General Pace reported to Doug as follows:

1/10/02

→SD

This means
that the
ultimatum
is not likely
to be the
important
opportunity
that we thought
it might be.
It will be easy
for the FARC
to defuse the
incident.

Doug Feith

- General Tapias told General Pace that Pastrana's ultimatum aimed to get the FARC to resume serious negotiations. Pastrana thinks that if the FARC "blinks" (i.e., returns to the table), it will be a victory for Pastrana.
- In case the FARC does not "blink," General Tapias said, he was at that moment reviewing military plans to retake the *despeje*. Tapias was confident, though, that the FARC would return to the table.
- Tapias also mentioned that Pastrana spoke on January 9, 2002, to the US Ambassador and asked for three things:
 - intelligence support, particularly SIGINT, against the FARC;
 - satellite imagery;
 - use of the recently delivered Black Hawks for counterterrorism and not only counterdrug operations.
- General Pace told Tapias that U.S. policy was unchanged, but if Colombia wanted U.S. assistance it should communicate this promptly, as it may take some time for the U.S. to be able to deal with the request.

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CLASSIFIED BY ASD/ISA PETER W. RODMAN
Reason(s) 1.5(d)
DECLASSIFY ON 10 January 2012

X00104 /02

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- **Comments:** Tapias's interpretation of "victory" confirms our suspicion that Pastrana may extend the *despeje* without any significant gain.
- Under current U.S. law, the helicopters can be used only for counterdrug operations. Broader intelligence-sharing, however, is impeded only by U.S. policy limitations.
- The fact that Pastrana asked for these things is itself a good sign. All this underlines the urgency, however, of a USG consensus on conveying a clear message of unequivocal support ASAP.

COORDINATION: TAB A

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