



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

113

FEB 21 2001

Mr. Brian Michael Jenkins
RAND
1700 Main Street
PO Box 2138
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138

Dear Brian,

Thanks so much for sending along your paper on
Colombia. I have read it and will send it along to
some folks here in the government. I appreciate your
thoughtfulness.

Best regards,

Colombia

21Feb01

U03524-01

RAND

January 30, 2001

RECEIVED

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
400 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 405
Chicago, IL 60611

7/4

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

Jim Thomson thought that you would be interested in reading the attached essay on Colombia. It reflects my own deep skepticism regarding some of the assumptions upon which Plan Colombia seems to be based.

It is in our interest to assist Colombia in reversing its deteriorating security situation. But in focusing on a high-tech war against drug production in remote areas of the country, Plan Colombia diverts resources from the country's more immediate security needs. Colombia's guerrillas have been fighting for four decades. Power, not peace, is their objective; negotiations are a component of the struggle. Extortion, kidnappings, and drugs have made them a profit-making enterprise with little incentive to quit. It will take years, if it can be done at all, to significantly reduce the guerrillas' income from drugs—the leverage that supposedly will persuade them to negotiate seriously now. Nor will Plan Colombia significantly reduce the volume of violence in Colombia, only 15 percent of which can be attributed to the guerrilla wars. And it may expose the U.S. to terrorist retaliation including politically perilous hostage situations and attacks on U.S. soil.

Let me take this opportunity to add my congratulations on your appointment and my sincere best wishes for your success.

7/4

With warmest personal regards,



Brian Michael Jenkins

JAT:es

Attachment

1700 Main Street, PO Box 2138
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138
TEL. 310.393.0411
FAX. 310.393.4818