

OFFICE CF THE SECRETARY OF LANCE Provide Andrés Pastrana Arango

Providente de la Republica de Colombia 2001 MAR 19 AM 10: 43

Bogotá, D.C., March 12, 2001



The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld Secretary of Defense The Pentagon Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week. I wanted to let you know how well I believe our meeting went, and how important it was to have had the opportunity to fill you in on the many complex issues facing Colombia. In particular, crop eradication efforts in the Putumayo area have already shown real substantive results, and implementation of Plan Colombia — on a political, judicial and military level — is proceeding as planned.

The importance of what our governments are doing, which serve the security interests of both our nations, cannot be underestimated. The questions of regional stability, of working towards hemispheric integration, of putting an end to an armed conflict while dealing a decisive blow to narco-trafficking – how we prevail on all of these fronts will determine not only Colombia's future, but that of the Andean region in particular, and have a major impact on the United States.

I would also like to reiterate how honored we would be to have you visit us in Colombia and see for yourself how well we are progressing and how determined we are to succeed. Until then, I hope this letter finds you well, and I look forward to talking with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT			
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