

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Chadwick M. Stendal

2001 APR 30 AM 8:21

10160 Main Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

(123)

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

April 20, 2001

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld,

My family has lived in rural Colombia, South America, for 37 years. My oldest son, Russell, was kidnapped and held for 142 days by the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC). We have a ranch on the river *Guaviare* that my son, Chaddy, is still operating. This is in the heart of the guerrilla controlled area. They allow him there because he is the best mechanic in the area and because the local people all love him.

I am an American civil engineer who moved from Minnesota to Colombia in 1964 as the enclosed book will explain. It will also help you understand what is happening in this country. We were in this area of Colombia before the guerrilla movement began and before the mafia began the drug trade. We watched both of these organizations develop and later the reaction and formation of the paramilitary (AUC). We have tried to maintain strict neutrality.

We run a 24 hour radio station, FM 88.8, in Puerto Lleras which is on the border of the FARC control and the paramilitary control. Most of our neighbors and friends, ranchers and common country people alike, have been killed.

My sons and I are ready to travel to Washington, DC at our own expense if anyone in the power structure affecting Colombia wants our valuable, current information.

Sincerely,

Chadwick M. Stendal

Chadwick M. Stendal

tels: 863-902-3656; 612-895-8640; E-mail: gstendal@aol.com
cell phone: 863-990-0941; website: hometown.aol.com/gstendal/StendalHome.html

U08310: /01



*"The situation seemed desperate. It appeared that all the power was in the capricious hands of the guerrillas, and we were impotent before them . . . One morning, Patty jumped out of bed, and exclaimed, 'The guerrillas are not in control!' she stated emphatically. **THE GUERRILLAS HAVE TAKEN OUR SON!** But they are not in control! **God is in control!**"*

Chad Stendal, a supervising engineer on many important construction projects in Minnesota, left engineering to work with the isolated Kogi Indian tribe amid the snow-capped peaks of Colombia, South America.

The Kogi Indians are a very short, thin people, due to malnutrition, parasites, and chewing the coca leaves from which cocaine is derived. The Stendals with their four children arrived twenty-five years ago, just in time to gain their confidence and prevent the defenseless tribe from being overrun and decimated by non-Indian colonists and the diseases and vices of civilization.

Chad now has a Masters Degree in linguistics and anthropology. Pat has put her degree in Education to good use in literacy work in Colombia. Their help also includes giving injections, sewing up wounds, and pulling teeth. Their son, Russell, became a famous jungle pilot in Colombia.



P.O. Box 1456
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

The Guerrillas Have Taken Our Son

The true story of an American Family and how they dealt with the kidnapping of their jungle pilot son, amid the chaotic conditions of cocaine trafficking and Marxist guerrilla activity in Colombia.

Chad & Pat Stendal

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CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL WORKSHEET

FOR **4/30/2001**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2500

SPECIAL OPERATIONS/
LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

Chadwick M. Stendal
10160 Main Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

RCVD 22MAY01

Dear Mr. Stendal:

Your recent letter to Secretary Rumsfeld enclosing a copy of your book describing your experiences in Colombia has been referred to me for reply. The Secretary is most interested in the situation in Colombia, and has asked for a review of our policy in Colombia and the Defense Department's role in supporting the efforts of the Government of Colombia to strengthen Colombia's economy, combat narcotics trafficking, reform the justice system and protect human rights, provide for social development and democratization, and achieve peace. As that review is now underway, your book arrives at an opportune moment. As head of the Defense Department's regional policy office for Latin America, I look forward to learning from your experiences and drawing on them as we develop options for the Secretary. We appreciate your offer to provide additional information as needed, and we will keep your offer in mind; with your permission, we will make it known to others in the Colombia policy community as well.

Thank you for sharing your views and your experiences with us. Let me wish the best of luck to you and your courageous family.

Sincerely,



John Merrill

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Inter-American Affairs

2001 MAY 12 AM 10:42
OFFICE OF THE
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