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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2001 MAY 23 11:12:45

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021

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May 8, 2001

Cass Ballenger
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Democratic Chief Counsel

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to advise you that I have authorized the Honorable Cass Ballenger (R-NC), Chairman, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere (WHEM), House International Relations Committee (HIRC), to lead a bi-partisan Congressional Delegation on official business to El Salvador, Colombia and Brazil from May 29 through June 2, 2001. For purposes of protocol Members spouses will be authorized to accompany the delegation at no additional expense to the U.S. Government.

The purpose of this trip is to evaluate the progress of earthquake recovery efforts in El Salvador and to visit facilities involved with the implementation of Plan Colombia.

I request the Department of Defense furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation, to facilitate this trip. It is also requested that the Marines be assigned to escort this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Henry Hyde
HENRY J. HYDE
Chairman

HJH:jod

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