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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Chairman

2001 DEC 20 PM 12:06

One Hundred Seventh Congress

Congress of the United States

Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Telephone: (202) 225-5021

November 29, 2001

Cass Ballenger

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138

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 Rep. Cass Ballenger plans to lead a bipartisan Congressional Delegation on official business to Nicaragua, Colombia, Paraguay and Panama, from January 9-17, 2002. 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 attend the inauguration of President-elect Enrique Bolanos in Nicaragua, and to discuss counter-terrorism efforts and the progress of the drug war. A final list of Members and staff participating in this CODEL will follow.

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 Department of 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:jrw

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