



POLICY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2100

INFO MEMO

202 MAR 19 AM 9:48

NEF-0404



I-02/003851-WH

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Under Secretary of Defense for Policy *AD Smith*
(Douglas J. Feith, 697-7200)

SUBJECT: HOUSE RESOLUTION ON COLOMBIA (H.R. 358)

PURPOSE: Reply to your question about my views on H.R. 358 (Tab A)

- H.R. 358 is a non-binding Sense of Congress that urges the President to propose a policy framed in terms of support for Colombian democracy, and that for the first time would add counter-terrorism as an explicit goal of U.S. policy in Colombia, along with traditional counter-narcotics goals (Tab B).
- The resolution is consistent with DOD's position in the interagency process.
- This represents the first formal acknowledgement by either house that the threat to Colombia now goes beyond drugs, and that U.S. policy should reflect this.
- It is [^]positive but not overly important development. It passed by unanimous consent, but a full debate on Colombia has yet to occur.

COORDINATION: Tab C

(Prepared by: Roger Pardo-Maurer, DASD-WHA, 697-9301)



U04918 /02

6:49 AM

TO: Doug Feith
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR*
DATE: March 5, 2002
SUBJECT: Resolution

Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL) gave me this. It is a resolution his committee is working up; a lot of Republicans and Democrats are working up to get the government to support Columbia to a greater extent. Let me know what you think of it.

Thanks.

DHR/azn
03/05/02.02
Attach: Draft Resolution

Please respond by: _____

3/12/02

FILE 6 02 15132

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 358

Expressing support for the democratically elected Government of Columbia and its efforts to counter threats from United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2002

Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GOSS, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. KOUBE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. GULMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

MARCH 6, 2002

Committee on International Relations discharged; considered under suspension of the rules and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the democratically elected Government of Columbia and its efforts to counter threats from United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Whereas the democratically elected Government of Colombia, led by President Andres Pastrana, is the legitimate authority in the oldest representative democracy in South America;

Whereas the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, is re-

quired to designate as foreign terrorist organizations those groups whose activities threaten the security of United States nationals or the national security interests of the United States pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas the Secretary of State has designated three Colombian terrorist groups as foreign terrorist organizations, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas all three United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations regularly engage in criminal acts, including murder, kidnapping, and extortion perpetrated against Colombian civilians, government officials, security forces, and against foreign nationals, including United States citizens;

Whereas the FARC is holding five Colombian legislators, a presidential candidate, and Colombian police and army officers and soldiers as hostages and has recently escalated bombings against civilian targets, including a foiled attempt to destroy the city of Bogota's principal water reservoir;

Whereas, according to the Colombian Government, the FARC has received training in terrorist techniques and technology from foreign nationals;

Whereas, since 1992, United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia have committed serious crimes against United States citizens, kidnapping more than 50 Americans and murdering at least ten Americans;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration believes that members of the FARC and the AUC directly engage in narcotics trafficking;

Whereas individual members of Colombia's security forces have collaborated with illegal paramilitary organizations by, inter alia, in some instances allowing such organizations to pass through roadblocks, sharing tactical information with such organizations, and providing such organizations with supplies and ammunition;

Whereas while the Colombian Government has made progress in its efforts to combat and capture members of illegal paramilitary organizations and taken positive steps to break links between individual members of the security forces and such organizations, further steps by the Colombian Government are warranted;

Whereas in 1998 Colombian President Andres Pastrana began exhaustive efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and implemented extraordinary confidence-building measures to advance these negotiations, including establishing a 16,000-square-mile safe haven for the FARC;

Whereas the Government of Colombia has also undertaken substantial efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the Government of Colombia's protracted efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and supports the Government of Colombia in its continuing efforts to reach a negotiated agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States would welcome a negotiated, political solution to end the violence in Colombia;

Whereas, after the FARC hijacked a commercial airplane and took Colombian Senator Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay as a hostage into the government-created safe haven, President Pastrana ended his government's sponsorship of the peace negotiations with the FARC and ordered Colombia's security forces to re-establish legitimate governmental control in the safe haven;

Whereas President Pastrana has received strong expressions of support from foreign governments and international organizations for his decision to end the peace talks and dissolve the FARC's safe haven; and

Whereas the Government of Colombia's negotiations with the ELN are continuing despite the end of the negotiations with the FARC: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) expresses its support for the democrat-
4 ically elected Government of Colombia and the
5 Colombian people as they strive to protect their
6 democracy from terrorism and the scourge of il-
7 licit narcotics; and

8 (B) deplores the continuing criminal ter-
9 rorist acts of murder, abduction, and extortion
10 carried out by all United States-designated for-
11 eign terrorist organizations in Colombia against
12 United States citizens, the civilian population of
13 Colombia, and Colombian authorities; and

1 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
2 tives that the President, without undue delay, should
3 transmit to Congress for its consideration proposed
4 legislation, consistent with United States law regard-
5 ing the protection of human rights, to assist the
6 Government of Colombia protect its democracy from
7 United States-designated foreign terrorist organiza-
8 tions and the scourge of illicit narcotics; and

9 (3) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
10 tives that the Secretary of State should designate a
11 high-ranking official to coordinate all United States
12 assistance to the Government of Colombia to ensure
13 clarity of United States policy and the effective de-
14 livery of United States support.

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BLU TEXT
SPRES2X
VERSION INTRODUCED IN SENATE
March 7, 2002

107TH CONGRESS

2D SESSION

S. RES. 220

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the continued attacks on democracy and the rule of law in Colombia, including the kidnappings of the elected representatives of the people of Colombia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2002

Mr. GRASSLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the continued attacks on democracy and the rule of law in Colombia, including the kidnappings of the elected representatives of the people of Colombia.

Whereas Colombia is home to the oldest democracy in Latin America and has consistently been a friend of the United States;

Whereas Colombia has been affected by the violence generated by the terrorist acts of illegal armed groups;

Whereas the largest of these groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has used kidnapping, extortion, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking to raise money for its activities;

Whereas those most affected by the targets of these activities have been the people of Colombia;

Whereas in October 1997, almost 10,000,000 Colombians voted for a mandate for peace that asked all presidential candidates to find peace in Colombia through political negotiation;

Whereas in June 1998, 6,500,000 Colombians voted for President Andres Pastrana and his project for peace in Colombia;

Whereas, since his election, President Pastrana has worked consistently and persistently to

find a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict between the Government of Colombia and the insurgency groups operating within the borders of Colombia;

Whereas the Government of Colombia put forth several proposals for peace and made sacrifices in sovereign territory and commitments in funding in hopes of achieving peace in Colombia only to have these overtures repeatedly rejected;

Whereas, on January 20, 2002, the Government of Colombia and the FARC were able to agree on a schedule to be followed in order to define the future of the peace process;

Whereas, since this accord was signed by the FARC, the FARC has consistently and repeatedly taken violent actions against the people and the Government of Colombia in the form of terrorist attacks, including-

- (1) car bombs;
- (2) attacking government installations;
- (3) mining new fields;
- (4) homicides, including women and children;
- (5) destroying electric pylons;
- (6) bombing oil pipelines;
- (7) destroying bridges; and
- (8) attacks on the dam that provides water to Bogota;

Whereas five democratically elected representatives of the Colombian Congress are currently being held against their will after being kidnapped by the FARC, including-

(1) Representative Oscar Tulio Lizcano, a member of the Conservative Party and elected by the people of Colombia to represent the Province of Caldas, who was kidnapped in the municipality of Riosucio, Province of Caldas, on August 5, 2000, by members of the "Aurelio Rodriguez Front" of the "Jose Maria Cordoba Block" of the FARC;

(2) Senator Luis Eladio Perez, a member of the Liberal Party and elected by the people of Colombia, while visiting several municipalities on a political tour who was kidnapped in the town of Ipiales, Province of Narino, on June 10, 2001, by elements of the FARC, as a second attempt to kidnap Senator Eladio, the first occurring at the end of May 2001, and frustrated by his security detail;

(3) Representative Orlando Beltran Cuellar, a member of the Liberal party from the Province of Huila and elected by the people of Colombia, who was kidnapped by the FARC in the municipality of Gigante, Province of Huila, on August 28, 2001;

(4) Representative Consuelo Gonzalez de Perdomo, a member of the Liberal Party from the Province of Huila and elected by the people of Colombia, who was kidnapped by the FARC in the municipality of Hobo, Province of Huila, on September 11, 2001; and

(5) Senator Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay, a member of the Liberal Party from the Province of Huila, elected by the people of Colombia, and President of the Colombian Senate's Peace Commission, who was kidnapped on February 20, 2002, when four members of the FARC hijacked a commercial AIRES aircraft traveling from Neiva to Bogota with 30 passengers on board and who was removed from the aircraft after it was forced to land on a rural road in the municipality of Hobo, Province of Huila; and

Whereas Saturday, February 23, Presidential Candidate Ingrid Betancourt and her campaign manager Clara Rojas were kidnapped by the FARC as she traveled to San Vicente del Caguan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate-

(1) expresses its strong support for the democratically elected Government of Colombia and the Colombian people in their struggle to protect their democracy from terrorism and the scourge of illicit narcotics;

(2) deplors the continuing criminal terrorist acts of murder, abduction, and extortion carried out by all illegal armed groups in Colombia against the civilian population of Colombia and Colombian authorities;

(3) condemns the kidnapping of elected representatives of the people of Colombia by the FARC and extends its sympathy to the families and friends of the kidnapped members of the Colombian Congress; and

(4) urges the President to develop a comprehensive strategic policy proposal, consistent with United States law regarding human rights and the environment, to assist the Government of Colombia in defending its democracy and rule of law from illegal armed groups and the scourge of illicit narcotics.

Source: Government Printing Office
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TDY
[Signature]
CS MAR 13 2001