



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



MAY 13 2002

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The Honorable Gustavo Bell Lemus  
Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Colombia  
Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia

Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter supporting continued U.S.-Colombian Bilateral Working Group meetings.

I propose that the next Bilateral Working Group take place in Washington during the September/October 2002 timeframe. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Peter W. Rodman, will lead the U.S. delegation.

Given your government's recent steps against the FARC and the challenges that confront your Armed Forces, this meeting offers an opportunity to enhance security cooperation between our two countries. Please let me know if you agree with the suggested timeframe.

Sincerely,

COLOMBIA

13 May 02



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INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400



ACTION MEMO

02/003070-WH

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs  
(Peter W. Rodman, (b)(6))

SUBJECT: Reply to letter from Colombian Minister of Defense Bell

- A letter to you from Colombian MOD Bell, who is also Vice President of Colombia, expresses support for the U.S.-Colombian Bilateral Working Group (BWG) and requests a fourth meeting (Tab B).
- The U.S.-Colombian BWG last met in November 2000 in Bogota. Subsequent formal meetings have been delayed by the change of Administrations and interagency review of U.S.-Colombia policy, but informal exchanges occur routinely.
- Given evolving USG policy toward Colombia and Colombia's presidential election in May 2002, I propose a meeting in Washington during the September/October 2002 timeframe. This period will allow us to engage the Colombian administration that follows Pastrana.
- Head of USG/DoD delegation should remain at the ASD-level.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the attached letter and release the transmittal cable at Tab A.

COORDINATION: TAB C

Attachments:  
As Stated

DASD/WHA 26 APR 2002

PDASD/ISA *aw*

Prepared by LTC

(b)(6)

ISA WHA,

(b)(6)

SPL ASSISTANT DI RITA	5/10
SR MA GIAMBASTIANI	5/10
MA BUCCI	5/10
EXECSEC WHITMORE	5/10

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COORDINATION

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Mr. Douglas J. Feith

*[Handwritten signature]*  
5/8/00