



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

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MAY 13 2002

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

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