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FROM : SECJLRID11C

Embassy of Colombia

PHONE NO. : 915662131

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Andrés Bustamante Arango
Presidente de la República de Colombia

(170)

Bogotá D.C., July 26, 2002

The Honorable
Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With my tenure as Colombia's president coming to an end, I want to thank you for the support you and the U.S. Department of Defense have given the Colombian people, and me personally, over the past eighteen months.

U.S. assistance to Colombia has improved our ability to address the difficult, complex challenges of terrorism and narco-trafficking. Across numerous areas of our bilateral relationship - from military training to intelligence sharing to law enforcement to human rights - Americans and Colombians have worked together to advance our common goals and national interests.

I am grateful for the Defense Department's support for Colombia on issues of mutual interest before the United States Congress, including U.S. assistance that is improving the professionalism and capabilities of Colombia's Armed Forces. I also appreciate the efforts to allow this assistance to be directed against terrorist groups that commit reckless violence against the Colombian people every day. These measures will bring us closer to the day when Colombia is a nation at peace.

Colombians have admired your leadership and that of President Bush in uniting the world to fight the scourge of terrorism with strength, courage and determination. Because of your example in rallying America and the world to this cause, Colombia's own national will to defeat the terrorism that threaten our freedom stronger than ever.

The past four years have been a critical period in Colombia's history. But in these final days in office, as I look back on our successes and our setbacks, I realize there was always one certainty, one constant - the support and generosity of the American people and leaders like you and President Bush to stand by us and see in Colombia a nation committed to democracy, peace and being a strong partner of the United States in the international community.

Sincerely,

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EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA
Washington, DC

FAX

To:	The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld	From:	Office of the Ambassador
Fax:	(203) 697-8339	Pages:	2
Copy:		Date:	August 6, 2002
Ref.:			

We are please to forward to you a letter from the President of Colombia.

Sincerely.