



Andrés Pastrana Arango
Presidente de la República de Colombia

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(180)

Bogotá D.C., November 28th, 2001

The Honorable
DONALD RUMSFELD
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It was great to see you again during my recent visit to Washington and discuss how we are implementing Plan Colombia with the help and support of the Department of Defense and the Bush Administration.

Together, I believe our two governments are putting in place long-term policies and programs that will enable us to defeat narco-traffickers, strengthen Colombia's armed forces and negotiate a political settlement that will end more than three decades of conflict in my country. At the same time, we are committed to cooperating fully with the United States and others in the international community to stand up against terrorism and transnational crime, wherever it exists and whenever it strikes.

This year we have made significant progress in the war against drugs. We have eradicated more than 85,000 hectares of coca in Colombia during 2001, an increase of 95% over 2000. During the last weeks, we have eradicated about 6,300 hectares of coca only in Putumayo. These operations, as well as numerous interdiction successes, have been performed by the anti-narcotics battalions trained by the United States without a single allegation of human rights violations against them.

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Andrés Pastrana Arango
Presidente de la República de Colombia

As I enter the final year of my presidency, I remain fully committed to working with you to successfully implement Plan Colombia, contribute to international efforts against terrorism, and negotiate a peace agreement with insurgency groups in Colombia. These are difficult challenges, but our task is made easier knowing that we have the strong support of the Bush Administration and the American people. For that, and for your personal interest in advancing our bilateral relationship, I am most grateful and remain optimistic that we can achieve the goals both our countries desire.

I look forward to welcoming you to Colombia before my term as president expires so that you can see, first-hand, what our governments are doing together to rid the scourge of illegal drugs that harms both our societies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Pastrana", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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November 30, 2001

The Honorable
Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

Enclosed please find a letter from President Andrés Pastrana with regards to our recent meeting.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a smaller 'A' and a trailing flourish.

Luis Alberto Moreno
Ambassador

dlr



Page 205 6 2001 PM

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**The Honorable
Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301**

