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Chairman

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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One Hundred Seventh Congress

Congress of the United States  
Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5021

[http://www.house.gov/international\\_relations/](http://www.house.gov/international_relations/)

January 14, 2003

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The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

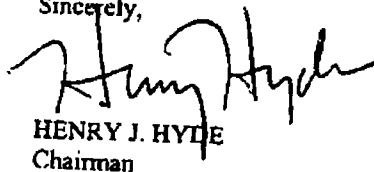
I am writing to advise you that I have authorized Congressman Cass Ballenger (R-NC), a Member of the House Committee on International Relations, to lead a congressional delegation on official business to Nicaragua, Honduras and Colombia, from February 14-24, 2003. For purposes of protocol, Members' spouses will be authorized to accompany the delegation at no additional expense to the U.S. Government. A final list of participating Members and staff will be furnished at a later date.

The purpose of this trip is to discuss with leaders of these nations issues related to drug trafficking, trade, immigration and other issues of regional significance.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. It is also requested that the Marine Corps be assigned to escort this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
HENRY J. HYDE  
Chairman

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