

FROM : DESPACHO MINDEFENSA

PHONE NO. : 2660191

Jun. 16 2003 04:44PM P01

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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
JUN 18 2003
SECRET HAS SEEN

No. 8131 : MDND

Bogotá, D.C., 16 JUN 2003

Alvaro Uribe
Agustín
Parra
7/1

Honorable
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
US Department of Defense
Washington, D.C 20301

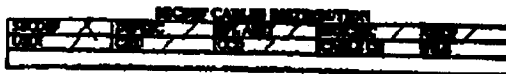
Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

Please allow me to express my gratitude for your and the United States' support in Colombia's fight against terrorism, the illegal drugs trade, extortion and kidnapping; and also, to congratulate you for the successes in Iraq – another positive step in the global fight against terrorism.

Undoubtedly, the support of the United States in this war against the threats to our democracy – the FARC, the ELN and the AUC (groups funded with money from the illegal drugs trade) – has been vital to Colombia. As President Alvaro Uribe has stated, the links between terrorists groups and the illegal drugs trade are a clear risk to the stability of the region and the entire hemisphere, as they attempt to gain power in order to operate freely and generate corruption in democratic institutions. The support of your government and the extraordinary work of Ambassador Anne Patterson in Colombia are, without a doubt, hindering and debilitating the activities of the terrorist groups in our country. This cooperation between both our governments is most definitely producing positive results in the fight against terrorism.

I have expressed my gratitude to General James T. Hill for his unending collaboration and the disposition of Southern Command. As I have mentioned to General Hill on various occasions, it is urgent that we increase intelligence sharing and cooperation geared at military actions against and the capture of leaders of the FARC, the ELN, and the AUC, who are threatening our citizens and institutions through the use of terrorism.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my invitation for you to visit Colombia so that you may personally examine and assess the efforts and successes of the



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FROM : DESPACHO MINDEFENSA

PHONE NO. : 2660191

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Democratic Security and Defense Policy being implemented by the Government of President Alvaro Uribe. We expect to dismantle the networks of crime and terror, and consolidate control throughout the territory and strengthening the rule of law and the authority of democratic institutions.

I hope to receive you on an official visit to Colombia in the near future and share with you our successes and plans.

Sincerely,



MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ DE RINCON
Minister of National Defense

COORDINATION

PDASD

DoD General Counsel

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COORDINATION

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COL (b)(6) 23 Jun 2003