

WHA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
EF-6264
I-03/010297
23
July 21, 2003 W

(219)

TO: Larry Di Rita
LTG Craddock
cc: PETER RODMAN
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld DR

SUBJECT: Colombia Trip

Please get Chris Williams involved in my Colombia visit. Here is a memo from him on the subject.

Thanks.

Attach.
7/10/03 Williams' memo on Colombia Trip

DHR:dh
072103-5

.....
Please respond by 8/2/03

✓
7/31

EF-6264
I-03/010297

USDCopy provided
7/30/03

@ 7/30

MEMO FOR SECDEF

From: ASD/ISA Peter Rodman

(b)(6)

29 JUL 2003

m. P. Rodman

DASD/WHA Pardo-Maurer has spoken to Chris Williams about his interest in the Colombia trip and will get together with him in the next few days. We're pleased to be able to incorporate well-informed "outsider" views in our trip preparations.

U20894 /03

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TEN

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c7/18
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July 10, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY RUMSFELD

FROM: Chris Williams

SUBJECT: Colombia

First and foremost, thank you very much for your kind note about my son's recent health problems. He spent 6 weeks in the hospital and wound up having 3 surgeries, 2 of which were performed by Ben Carson. Your note was most gracious and warmed the heart.

I understand you may be considering an invitation to visit Colombia sometime this Fall. The significant US military and intelligence investments and relationships in Colombia; the FARC's holding of US hostages; the linkage between narcotics trafficking and terrorists; Colombia's support for the war in Iraq; International Criminal Court issues; the Colombian government's success, through Plan Colombia, of dramatically reducing coca cultivation – these and other reasons compel senior US decision makers to continue to follow developments in that important country.

For what it's worth, sir, I recommend you do undertake such a visit. Such a visit would help demonstrate the continued US commitment to and interest in Colombia, give you a "first hand" assessment of the progress to date in our mutual efforts to defeat the narco-terrorists, and allow you to congratulate and support the brave Americans (civilians and military personnel alike) who are serving in that war-torn country.

I have followed US policy toward Colombia for several years, and helped push through the original "Plan Colombia" legislation and funding, back when I worked for Senate Majority Leader Lott. I would be happy to assist you and your staff in the preparation for such a visit, if you believe that would be beneficial.

Thank you again for the kind note, and best regards.

cc: Peter Rodman

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