

INFO MEMO

USD(P)

I-03/015707

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense (SO/LIC)

SUBJECT: Plan Colombia Helicopters

(b)(6)

On October 4, 2003 you sent a note to Secretary Powell (Tab A) regarding the shortage of helicopters in Colombia to support both counternarcotics eradication and large-scale military operations against narcoterrorists.

The two issues were:

- The Colombian military wants more access to State Plan Colombia UH-60 helicopters, and
- The low operational readiness rate of the Colombian military's helicopters.

I believe that progress has been made on both of these issues.

- Following up your memo to Secretary Powell, General Hill worked this issue with the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and reports that the Ambassador is now effectively managing requests for State helicopter support, and
- The Embassy is exploring initiatives such as joint maintenance facilities, faster delivery of spare parts, and expedited Embassy mission clearance.

General Hill, General Pace and I believe that these measures have resolved the recent problem, for the time being.

I will continue to monitor this issue, and will revisit it if further problems arise.

Response from Secretary Powell: Tab B
Coordination: Tab C

Attachments:
As Stated

Prepared by: CDR (b)(6) SO/LIC Counternarcotics, (b)(6)

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COORDINATION

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense For Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) | Mike McMurray | November 18, 2003 |
| Joint Staff Division Chief, CCSA, (J5) | Col. Jan Ithier | November 18, 2003 |
| U.S. Southern Command, Washington Directorate | Col. Bockenstedt | November 18, 2003 |

October 4, 2003

TO: Honorable Colin Powell (by hand)

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld 

SUBJECT: Colombia and Helicopters

How do you propose we solve the helicopter problem for Colombia?

Should we both go up to Congress together and talk to some of the key people to see what we can do?

DHR:dh
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