

2004 APR 20 PM 1:07

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*Alvaro Uribe Vélez*  
*Presidente de la República de Colombia*

Bogotá, D.C., April 12, 2004

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

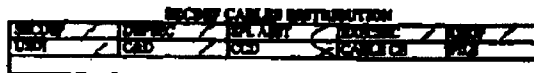
I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you during my recent visit to Washington to discuss the positive results Colombia and the United States are realizing in the war against terrorism and narco-trafficking.

Support from the U.S. Department of Defense and Southcom, has been especially effective in providing training, equipment and planning assistance to the Colombian armed forces. As a result, this year we are taking the fight more aggressively to terrorist strongholds in my country. We have come a long way during the tenure our two administrations have been working side-by-side to enhance security and opportunity for millions of Colombians.

A critical component in shifting the advantage to the Colombian military has been and will continue to be improved air power and transport capability. Increased air power will make a significant difference in our ability to conduct combat operations and move equipment and troops in remote regions of Colombia.

As I mentioned to many leaders in the administration and the U.S. Congress, I believe it is essential that we stay the course which has produced such positive trends to date. If we continue to work and invest at this pace, we can dramatically transform the situation in Colombia and across the Andean region. Colombia will need sustained military and economic assistance from the United States in the medium term, but as our security improves we will be able to gradually assume a growing share of burden.

The Honorable  
Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
United States of America

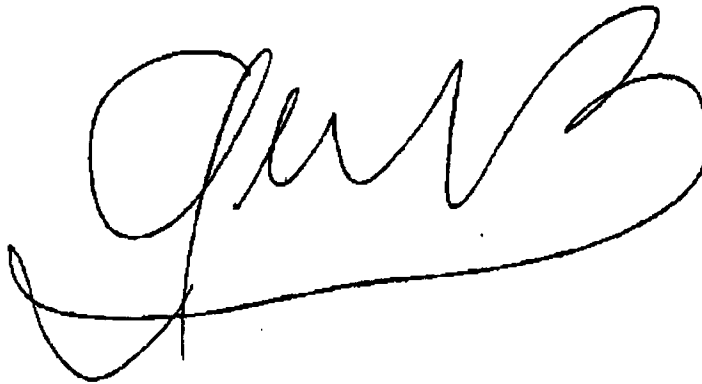


OSD 05737-04

*Alvaro Uribe Vélez*  
*Presidente de la República de Colombia*

Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for your continued interest and support of Colombia. We are grateful for the assistance the U.S. Department of Defense and the Bush administration has given our nation and people during this critical period in our history.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Alvaro Uribe Vélez, the President of Colombia mentioned in the text above. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.