



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

(270)

AUG 31 2004

COLOMBIA

His Excellency Jorge Alberto Uribe Echavarria
Minister of National Defense
Colombia

Dear Minister Uribe,

Thank you for your recent letter. It is clear that Colombia has made significant progress in a number of important areas.

I appreciate your commitment to the War on Terrorism, and look forward to continuing our close cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

31 AUG 04

19 AUG 04

OSD 12557-04

Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD

From: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2004 3:01 PM
To: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Cc: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: Echavarria Jorge Alberto Uribe -MOD Colombia-re drugsetc



Echavarria Jorge
Alberto Uribe...

Carrie Sue,
Thanks so much for sending this letter to us. You will note that I cut a lot out of the letter, but I think that the shortened version gets the same message across and reinforces the messages and style that the SECDEF has sent in previous correspondence to Colombia.

I actually wanted to talk to you about this process and how we can continue to work together to answer these sorts of issues. I really appreciate your help on this.

V/r.
(b)(6)



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NOTE FOR C&D

SUBJ: SOM Request

Please SOM the attached LETTERS as follows:

"With best wishes"

"Approved"

"Disapproved"

"Donald Rumsfeld"

"Don"

"DR"

William P. Marriott
CAPTAIN, USN

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

8-24-04

John A. ...

Please review.

I think a response is appropriate
but worry that we will get too
ambitious.

Can you all work up a good

response regarding the Minuteman

his thorough commitment, show

that it has been ahead w/ key things

has in the Pentagon, and that

we need the clear relationship

with Colombia and also the

your trust on partnership with the

private power & property in Colombia

and the people? 1/2 star

Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD

From: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2004 5:33 PM
To: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Subject: RE: SD ltr to MOD Colombia

Sorry for not getting back sooner. Should say Dear Minister Uribe.

v/r,
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2004 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: SD ltr to MOD Colombia

Dear LTC (b)(6) --

In the salutation on that Colombian MOD ltr -- should it say "Dear Minister Uribe" or "Dear Minister Echavarria?" I had Uribe in the ltr I sent you -- but I wanted to be sure. Can you let me know asap?
Thanks - Carrie Sue

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2004 9:33 AM
To: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Subject: RE: SD ltr to MOD Colombia

Carrie Sue,

I wanted to let you know that this letter has made it into the IDM&SS system and has been assigned an I-Number 04/011414. I also saw another number ES-0551. It has been sub-assigned to SO/LIC. I sent a copy of the letter to (b)(6) at SOLIC-CN who works Colombia issues.

v/r,
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2004 4:42 PM
To: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: SD ltr to MOD Colombia

Yeah -- In past letters, SecDef has used War on Terror. I'll change it and see how it goes when it passes thru the Front Office gamut. Thanks - CSC

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) LTC, OSD-POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2004 3:02 PM
To: Casey, Carrie, CTR, OSD
Subject: RE: SD ltr to MOD Colombia

Carrie Sue,

It occurred to me as I pressed send that it should be the War on Terrorism (vice Terror).

v/r,

8/31/2004

ESCD Instructions

Classified Attached ☐

OSD Control # 12557-04

Date: Signed ☐ Approved ☐ 08/31/04

SOM: Yes ☒ No ☐

DR ☐ **DHR** ☐ **Don** ☐ **Donald Rumsfeld** ☒

Don Rumsfeld ☐ **PW** ☐ **Paul Wolfowitz** ☐ **With Best Wishes** ☐

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Fax/WashFax ☐ **H/C** ☐ **Other** ☐ _____ **To:** _____

#: _____ **No Other Distribution** ☐

Administrative Notes:

- There is no message w/ this letter.

Acknowledgement ☐

Action Memo ☐

Incoming ☐

Info Memo ☐

Interim Reply ☐

Note Reply ☐

Question/Note ☐

Response ☐

Front Office Doc ☒

JM 8/31
Duty Officer Initials/Date



Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
República de Colombia

2 2 2 5 2
No. - - - - - MDAI

Bogotá, D.C.

19 AGO. 2004

The Honorable
Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This week marks the second anniversary of the inauguration of President Alvaro Uribe and the mid-term point of the current administration in Colombia. As such, it is an appropriate time to review the progress Colombia has realized in addressing the three most important challenges facing our country: (1) combating terrorism and narco-trafficking, (2) restoring economic growth, and (3) strengthening the rule of law, human rights and development for everyone in our society. I want to share with you the achievements of the partnership between the Pentagon and Southcom and Colombia's Armed Forces and National Police over these past 24 months.

In each of these areas significant progress has been made. For the first time in a generation, a majority of Colombians are optimistic about the nation's future. This is due largely to the successful implementation of two initiatives, the Democratic Security and Defense Policy and the military and economic assistance programs of Plan Colombia, as well as sound management of the Colombian economy. There is a renewed confidence in public institutions, particularly the Armed Forces, which in a recent national opinion poll secured a favorability rating of 78%, the highest of any institution in the country.

Colombia's progress over the past two years can be measured in many ways, but most significantly in a reduction of violence and terrorism which has plagued our society. Homicides have declined 27% over the past two years, while kidnappings have declined by 45%. Moreover, incidents of terrorism have declined 37% in the last twelve months. The result is that people and goods are today moving more freely and safely around the country.

At the core of Colombia's efforts to reduce terrorist violence is our striking at the heart of Colombia's illegal narco-trafficking industry that fuels all illegal actors in our society. As a result of our joint efforts, Colombia's illegal coca crop has been reduced from 169,800 hectares in 2001 to 113,850 hectares at the end of last year. An additional 60,000 hectares have been sprayed during the first half of 2004.

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Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Republica de Colombia

Colombia is on target to meet the commitment it made in 2000 to reduce our illegal coca crop by 50% in five years.

At the same time, the Uribe government has taken the fight more aggressively to traffickers and terrorists. More than 10,000 members of the FARC, ELN and AUC have been killed, or have deserted or demobilized over the past two years. The leadership of these groups has been more effectively targeted, and through Plan Patriota we are today able to take the fight directly to their strongholds in southern Colombia. Our armed forces and national police have improved mobility, made possible by U.S.-provided helicopters and aircraft; and they are today more effectively taking the offensive against narco-terrorists as a result of U.S.-provided equipment, logistical support, planning assistance, training and intelligence. This assistance has not only improved the professionalism and capabilities of our military and police, but has also boosted morale and strengthened our determination to defend our democracy and society.

As part of our efforts to create a more professional military and police force, a total of 36,000 troops and 7,000 police officers have been added to Colombia's security forces in the past 24 months. There is now police presence in every Colombian municipality - a first for the nation. The Colombian government has expanded its security program for high-risk individuals, providing safety to more than 6,000 labor leaders, human rights workers, journalists, local government officials and others.

There has been significant judicial reform and an improvement in the government's human rights performance. U.S. assistance has provided training for more than 3,500 prosecutors, judges, magistrates and defense attorneys, while 73,000 members of the Colombian armed forces received training in human rights and international humanitarian law in 2003 alone. Colombia has extradited over 170 individuals to the United States for criminal prosecution, and we have more aggressively targeted individuals engaged in money laundering, arms smuggling and drug trafficking.

Beyond security issues, a number of other important developments have occurred in Colombia over the past 24 months. In 2003, the Colombian economy expanded by 4.0%, the highest annual rate since 1995. More than 1.2 million new jobs were created last year. Following passage of the renewed Andean Trade Preferences Act in 2003, Colombia-U.S. bilateral trade grew by 10% in 2003 to \$12.3 billion in 2003. GDP growth in the first quarter of this year was a strong 4.1%.

The Colombian government has implemented a number of initiatives to enhance social and economic development, particularly in communities affected by drug trafficking and terrorist violence. Colombia and the United States have planted more than 45,000 hectares of alternative crops throughout the country over the past two years. Under Plan Colombia, the United States and Colombia have completed 835 economic and social infrastructure projects, including building road and sewer systems, schools and health clinics, in isolated communities throughout southern Colombia, where this development leads to reduced dependency on illegal drug cultivation and production. Plan Colombia has provided assistance to more than 1.6 million internally displaced Colombians - individuals and families who have been forced to flee their homes and communities because of violence. In addition, the Uribe administration has earmarked new investments in education and health care. Public school

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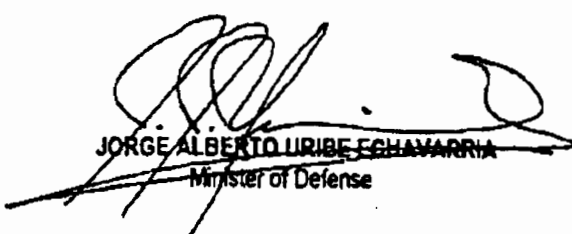
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
República de Colombia

enrollment rose from 7.8 million children in 2002 to 8.6 million children in June 2004. More than 3.4 million Colombians have gained access to public health care over the past two years.

Despite these achievements, the fight against narco-terrorism and poverty is far from over. Over the next two years and beyond, we are looking to consolidate the gains realized to date in security, law and order and economic development. This includes sustaining the military offensive against narco-terrorist groups, while at the same time conducting peace talks with groups genuinely interested in demobilizing and returning to civil society. Completing and implementing a free trade agreement between Colombia and the United States will solidify our economic recovery and create a new generation of jobs and investment. Finally, narco-terrorism has created unique humanitarian and environmental challenges in Colombia, which will require long-term solutions and resources.

Mr. Secretary, Colombia owes a great debt of gratitude to President Bush and you for your strong and steadfast leadership and the support the U.S. Department of Defense has given us at this critical period in our nation's history. We are proud to have the United States as our strongest ally and friend. I look forward to our continued cooperation toward the goal of bringing peace and prosperity to Colombia.

Sincerely,



JORGE ALBERTO URIBE ECHAVARRIA
Minister of Defense

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