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Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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May 5, 2005

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MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I intend to head a CODEL to travel on official business to the Andean countries of South America from July 2-9, 2005. The countries to be visited are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Other Members and staff will also accompany this CODEL. A list of their names will be furnished at a later date. Member spouses will accompany the delegation for reasons of protocol.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation, to facilitate this trip. It is specifically requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned to escort the delegation and that a DOD physician also be assigned to accompany the delegation.

The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas
Chairman

WMT/ae

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