



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2005 AUG -4 AM 9:10

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
República de Colombia

July 15, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
U.S. Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me to discuss bilateral and regional security issues during my recent visit to Washington. I appreciated the warm welcome and I am grateful for your strong leadership and commitment to our country.

As we discussed, Plan Colombia, now in its fifth year, has achieved remarkable progress, due in large part to U.S. assistance, which has strengthened the ability of the Colombian government to control greater parts of the country's vast territory. This in turn, makes it more possible to now begin suppressing the production of illegal drugs in Colombia. I am confident that, with the continued support of the United States, we will be able to achieve significant progress in ridding both our societies of this scourge.

One need not look further than the transformation taking place in Colombia to understand that when countries work together remarkable progress can be achieved not only for the benefit of both countries but for the sake of stability and security across the region. I thank you for your sustained commitment, assistance and cooperation to combat narco-trafficking and strengthen bilateral relations.

The Government of Colombia is determined to stay the course towards a more peaceful and prosperous Colombia and we look forward to continue working with you on issues of importance to our countries.

Sincerely,

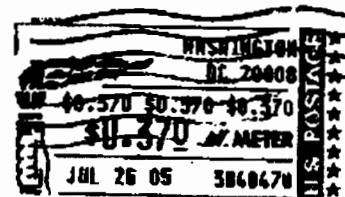

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Minister of National Defense

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