



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

(286)

SEP 27 2005

Colombia

His Excellency Luis Alberto Moreno
Embassy of Colombia
2118 Leroy Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Thank you for your kind note concerning your impending departure as your nation's Ambassador to the United States. It has been a pleasure to work with you in that capacity.

I offer my congratulations on your upcoming appointment as President of the Inter-American Development Bank. I am sure you will do a fine job there, working with our mutual friend, Paul Wolfowitz, at the World Bank.

I look forward to continuing to see you here in Washington, D.C.

All the best,

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27 Sep 05

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Our country has experienced a dramatic turnaround in the last few years. Security for all Colombians has improved significantly, fueling economic recovery, social progress, and most importantly, renewed confidence and hope in the future. Since 2002, homicides have dropped by 40% to their lowest level in twenty years, and kidnapping incidents have decreased by 79%. Terrorist groups and trafficking organizations have been weakened, and their leaders brought to justice—in Colombia and the U.S.—in record numbers. And significant progress has been made on dismantling terrorist organizations and demobilizing their individual members, forever silencing their guns.

It has been in large part the vision, leadership and commitment of such friends of Colombia in the Administration, Congress and civil society over the last seven years that have fostered the creation of a deep bond of trust between our two countries as we face the common threats of illegal drugs and terrorism and seek to expand economic opportunity for our citizens. The approval and implementation of Plan Colombia and successor programs with bipartisan support, the expansion and extension of the Andean Trade Preferences Act, the launch and progress of negotiations towards a Free Trade Agreement between our two nations, the consolidation of a world-class partnership in judicial cooperation, and so many other lesser known but equally important joint initiatives, are not only a source of pride for all of us who have been involved in bringing them to life—they have been instrumental in Colombia's remarkable recovery.

It is with great sadness, but also with great pride, that I write to say my farewell as Colombia's Ambassador to the United States. The seven years my wife Gabriela and I have spent in this city have been the most stimulating and gratifying of our lives. We have learned much about our country by seeing it from American shores, and our affection and respect for your great nation's democracy and people continues to grow every day. Most of all, we cherish the relationships we have developed with you and so many Americans in government and other spheres of life who have been generous enough to extend us their friendship and offer our country their support.

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
US Department of Defense
VIA FACSIMILE

Washington, September 22, 2005

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EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA, WASHINGTON DC draft

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I've attached



9/23/2005 5:36 PM FROM: Embassy of Colombia TO: 970340719010 PAGE: 001 OF 002
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ESD Instructions

Classified Attached ☐

OSD Control # 19138-05

Date: Signed ☒ **Approved** ☐ 9/27/05

SOM: Yes ☐ **No** ☒

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

Don Rumsfeld ☐ **GE** ☐ **Gordon England** ☐ **With Best Wishes** ☐

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Question/Note ☐

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ESD
IF POLICY HAS BEEN
TASSED TO REPLY,
PLEASE TURN THEM OFF
THX M

9/27
Duty Officer Initials/Date