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INFO MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, ISA (Peter W. Rodman, (b)(6)) 12 DEC 19 2005

SUBJECT: Colombia's Follow up to your Central America Defense Ministerial

- On December 5, Colombia hosted a Central America – Caribbean ministerial conference on regional coordination against narcoterrorism.
- MoD Ospina and other foreign government officials enthusiastically credited your leadership and USG support for making the conference in Bogota possible.
- This conference – a first for Colombia – shows that your Central America Defense Ministerial continued to yield dividends in Colombia.
- Unusually, Mexican Secretary of Defense, General Vega and Navy Secretary, Admiral Peyrot participated.
- Colombia and Guatemala signed an agreement on technical exchanges and training cooperation.
- Colombia and Dominican Republic signed two binational agreements on defense cooperation and on maritime security.
- Mexican Navy Secretary Peyrot pledged to support Central America and the Caribbean with exchange of information, and coordinated actions to fight drug trafficking.
- Very importantly, the 19 participating countries reached consensus to create a Regional Coordination Center focused on illegal drug trafficking and related crimes in Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.
 - To facilitate the center's creation, participants agreed to convene a meeting of technical experts from the police, judicial authorities, and military forces on January 17, 2006 in El Salvador.
 - Once we receive initial feedback from the meeting in El Salvador WHA will keep you informed.

COORDINATION: N/A INFO: OSD/SOLIC-CN; JS-J5 CCSA

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