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## **ACTION MEMO**

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FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Peter W. Rodman Assistant Secretary of be

Rober SUBJECT: Congratulatory and Farewell Letters

6/21

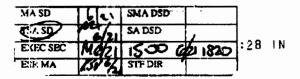
- On June 7 President Uribe of Colombia announced the appointment of Juan Manuel Santos as Minister of Defense (MOD) to replace Camilo Ospina.
- Mr. Santos, an economist educated in the United States and England, has a long and
  respected political career. He served as Minister of Finance in a previous
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  reputation as a hard-liner who has expressed fierce opposition to Hugo Chavez in
  Venezuela and is inclined to apply his business acumen to modernize the military
  forces of Colombia.
- Mr. Santos is expected to assume his position on July 20, 2006.
- The attached letters (TAB A) congratulate Mr. Santos and thank MOD Ospina for his collaboration during his tenure.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign both letters and release transmittal cables.

COORDINATION: N/A

Attachments: As stated

Prepared by: (b)(6) OSD/ISA/WHA, (b)(6)





8 JUN 08

## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUN 22 2006

His Excellency
Camilo Ospina
Minister of National Defense
of the Republic of Colombia
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Dear Mr. Minister:

I want to thank you for your leadership during your tenure as Colombia's Minister of Defense. I enjoyed partnering with you on security in the region, and strengthening the friendship and trust between our countries.

I wish you success in your future endeavors. Best wishes for continued good health and prosperity.

Sincerely,

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FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Peter W. Rodman Assistant Secretary Or Defense (ISA)

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6/21

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His Excellency
Juan Manuel Santos
Minister of National Defense
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Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Dear Mr. Minister:

Congratulations on your appointment as the Minister of Defense. I look forward to continuing the outstanding relationship with you that I enjoyed with your predecessor, Camilo Ospina.

Colombia and the United States have a great partnership. There are many issues of mutual interest to discuss. I look forward to meeting and working with you to further our defense collaboration.

Sincerely,

G



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## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

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Why

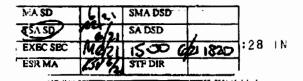
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COORDINATION: N/A

Attachments: As stated

Prepared by: (b)(6) OSD/ISA/WHA,





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## SAJUNO

## PONDES

## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



JUN 22 2006

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