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TO:

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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FROM:

Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense (SOCIE)

SUBJECT: Legislation to Extend U.S. Personnel Cap in Colombia (U)

- Section 3204 of Public Law 106-246 restricts DoD and State Department personnel deployed in support of Plan Colombia to 400 military personnel and 400 civilian contractors. SOUTHCOM and State Department requirements are pushing the limits of this cap.
- (S) An increase in the cap to 800 military personnel and 600 civilian contractors
 would give SOUTHCOM the surge capability to support Colombia's military
 new military offensive "Plan Patriota".

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o Additional civilian contractors will allow increased training and support for:

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- (C) DoD and State Department have completed a brief for congressional members and staffers validating the cap increase.
- (C) Once the Deputies' Committee approves the brief, it will be presented to Congress. We anticipate beginning these briefings in January.
- (C) We will also prepare letters for Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz's signature to key members of Congress requesting their support to amend Section 3204 to allow an increase in the personnel cap. State Department will prepare similar letters for Deputy Secretary Armitage.

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Prepared by: CDR	(b)(6)	SOLIC/CN	(b)(6)