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APR 17 2006

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FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

APR 17 2006

SUBJECT: Colombian MOD's Idea (U)

~~(FOUO)~~ After you met Colombian MOD Ospina, you asked for an interagency plan to encourage greater DoD and other cabinet officer presence in Latin America.

- ~~(C)~~ After much prodding from you and Secretary Rice, the interagency is moving forward on a Strategic Partnership Plan drafted by ISA-WHA.
 - The plan (TAB A) calls for designating Chile, Colombia and El Salvador as Major Non-NATO Allies (MNNA), as the first step of a comprehensive strategy to select a core group of friends and nudge them toward a common strategic vision. The next step would be to strengthen the content of the MNNA designation for the core Latin America group, and possibly add Mexico to the list.
 - We may see action on this as early as May, when the President intends to deliver a speech on Latin America. Another date to work for is the visit to Washington D.C. of Chilean President Bachelet, planned for 8 June.
- ~~(FOUO)~~ Everyone agrees on the need for more high-level interaction with the region, and in fact this is happening. It should be noted that Karen Hughes has been helpful. A few examples from last month:
 - Secretary Rice traveled to Chile for the inauguration of President Bachelet in Chile. She also met with Presidents Toledo and Morales.
 - Attorney General Gonzales unsealed a federal indictment charging 50 leaders of the Colombian FARC with trafficking some \$25 billion worth of cocaine.
 - Secretary Rice met with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Foreign Ministers and agreed to strengthen cooperation, including:
 - Support for CARICOM integration.
 - Support for regional law enforcement and security cooperation efforts.
 - Preparations for the security for the Cricket World Cup 2007.
 - Convening a Conference on the Caribbean sometime in 2007.
 - President Bush met with his counterparts from Mexico and Canada to reaffirm their commitment to the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

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Prepared by: (b)(6) ISA/WHA (b)(6)
Classified by: K. Pardo-Munoz, DASD-WHA, Reason: 1.4 (d) Declassify On: 13 April, 2016

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- House Republicans led by Henry Hyde asked for an additional \$100 million dollars to buy 23 aircraft for the Colombian National Police.

Way Ahead Possibilities:

- (U) In February, the United States concluded free trade talks with Colombia and Peru. If necessary, we will ask for your personal involvement to ensure Congressional ratification, as you did for CAFTA.
- (U) In October 2006, Nicaragua will host the Defense Ministerial of the Americas VII which you have agreed to attend. This is a good occasion to hold a follow-up of your Key Biscayne ministerial with the Central Americans.
- ~~(C)~~ Another idea, we are exploring, but which could open an entirely new field of interesting engagement opportunities throughout the region, is a DoD-hosted conference on "*Best Practices in Defense/Indigenous Community Relations*" in the Western Hemisphere.
- (U) We have asked White House staff to consider including OSD in the presidential inaugural delegation to Colombia on 7 August.

Bottom Line: ~~(FOUO)~~ This is an area in which we are making progress. There is momentum towards strengthening our formal strategic partnerships in Latin America and obtain greater high-level interaction with Latin America.

COORDINATION: Tab B

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~~FOUO~~

March 01, 2006

I-06/002691
ES-5292

TO: Eric Edelman

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR*

SUBJECT: Colombian MOD's Idea

In yesterday's meeting with the Defense Minister of Colombia, he urged us to have a greater presence in Latin America. That seems to make sense.

Please come up with a plan to encourage that in terms of DoD people and other Cabinet Officers.

Thanks.

DRR
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Please Respond By 03/23/06

~~FOUO~~

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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS GUIDANCE ON OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND NEXT STEPS

Objective:

Strengthen U.S. ties with selected partners in the Americas with a view to:

1. ~~reduce resentment of perceived U.S. hegemony and shift the focus away from~~
conflictive relations with Venezuela and Cuba,
2. build partners' capacity and will to lead in sub-regions, consistent with shared interests, and
3. move steadily over time toward broader and deeper Hemispheric integration spreading from North America southward to create a strategic system based on shared commitments to democracy, markets, security, and the rule of law.

Principles:

- Strategic partnerships should provide a framework for multifaceted cooperation, and should draw guidance from the four pillars of NSPD-32: *U.S. Western Hemisphere Strategy* – Security, Democracy, Prosperity, and Investing in People.
- Each partnership should be tailored uniquely to each country; however, each should aim to produce credible results in fighting poverty, drugs, corruption, and crime, the principal threats to regional democracy, stability and security. And each should serve to highlight success stories within the partner country (with or without U.S. aid) in addressing these threats.
- In addition, the overall "New World Partnership" strategy should strengthen the hemispheric system and facilitate coordinated positions in multilateral institutions and international fora.
- We should choose partners that have clearly embarked on the path of democracy and markets, whatever the governing party.
- Tolerance of manageable differences and flexibility will be essential to build these partnerships and demonstrate U.S. willingness to be responsive and share power. Redlines should be few and carefully chosen.
- The strategy should aim for the convergence of existing and future free trade areas, the logical next step in hemispheric integration.
- We should also use the SPP as a model to go beyond trade liberalization to broaden the agenda to other issues of common interest.

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Choice of Strategic Partners

Strategic partners should be chosen based on their global/regional/subregional importance and commonality of objectives and policies.

We should intensify efforts to treat Canada, Mexico, and Brazil as hemispheric partners as well as partners within their sub-regions (North America, Central America, and South America). Our dialogue with these countries should consistently include consultations on hemispheric issues and explicit attempts to forge common positions and shared action plans.

At the sub-regional level, our focus should be on two stable partners with credible leaders and reasonably consistent policy paths: Colombia (Andes/Caribbean) and Chile (Andes/Southern Cone).

We should also identify a second tier of countries with which to pursue more limited strategic partnerships as appropriate to their size and given the ongoing political and other uncertainties they face: El Salvador (Central America), Uruguay (Southern Cone), and the Dominican Republic (Caribbean/Central America). Depending on the outcome of the election this year, it may also be possible to reach out to Peru as another partner in the troubled Andean region.

Next Steps (based on guidance from NSPD-32):

The first step with each strategic partner is to propose a high-level working group to develop a common strategic picture, to be refreshed through annual "Strategic Dialogue".

I. Bolster Security

- Confer Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) Status on El Salvador, Colombia, and Chile
 - Explore MNNA status with Mexico.
 - Strengthen content of MNNA designation for Western Hemisphere partners.
 - Support new combined peacekeeping units (e.g. Central America, Chile-Argentina).
 - Support partner-led creation of regional disaster relief and rapid response capabilities.

II. Strengthen Democratic Institutions

- Energize partnerships by increasing frequency of visits by U.S. Cabinet members.
- Develop a "gold standard" for the Inter American Democratic Charter.
- Strengthen NGOs that promote free speech, transparency, and accountability.
- Encourage leadership roles in the UN and OAS.
- Encourage engagement in global fora such as the Community of Democracies.

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III. Promote a More Prosperous Hemisphere

- Propose a NAFTA and CAFTA leaders summit on the future of North America.
- Deepen NAFTA and broaden the US/CAN/MEX Security and Prosperity Partnership.
- Propose a North American energy strategy (with Mexico, Canada, and Colombia).
- Work with Mexico and Central America on a Mesoamerican infrastructure strategy.
- Leverage close financial relationship with Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Chile to secure pro-growth reforms at the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Use formal dialogues (U.S.-Brazil Group for Growth, U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity) and bilateral engagement with other strategic partners as platform for highlighting benefits of pro-market reforms for the poor.
- Launch joint development assistance projects with Canada, Mexico, and Brazil.
- "Invest in Success": request that key private sector NGOs (e.g. Council of Americas, Chamber of Commerce) work with regional counterparts in drafting an "Agenda for Enterprise" with benchmarks for a healthy investment climate.
- Invite partners to co-host with the U.S. a rotating, annual trade fair and "Best New World Practices Conference" to showcase successful growth-promotion policies.

IV. Invest in People

- Cultivate a new generation of pro-United States leadership, with a goal of reaching maturity in 2020.
- In partnership with State and Federal educational institutions in the United States, launch a "New World Fellowship" exchange program for young leaders from the partner countries, culminating in a "New World Jamboree" in Washington D.C.
- Expand programs to bring key media and opinion leaders to the United States.
- Expand programs to bring provincial, local, and political party leaders to the United States.
- Strengthen programs for individual and institutional exchanges in:
 - Science and Technology
 - Environment/Management of Natural Resources
 - Disaster Relief
 - Public Health

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