



SPECIAL OPERATIONS/
LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2500

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APR 10 2001

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR POLICY MATTERS (Chris Williams, 695-5136)
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
SUPPORT (Pete Verga, (b)(6))

APR 11 2001

FROM: PDASD FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW INTENSITY
CONFLICT (Robert J. Newberry, 693-2892)
(Prepared by: Clyde Howard, SOLIC/IA, 697-9301)

SUBJECT: (b)(1),1.4(d) Assessment of Situation in
Colombia - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

PURPOSE: To provide the attached information on our views of (b)(1),1.4(d)
(b)(1),1.4(d) assessment of the situation in Colombia.

Attachment:
As Stated

*Sirs: I thought you might find the
attached re Colombia of interest.
VR,
Chris Wms*

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CLASSIFIED BY: ACTING DASD/IA
DECLASSIFY ON: 29 March 2011

(Unclassified upon removal
of attachments)

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RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE: USDP DAILY ITEM ON COLOMBIA

Question: "Do we share this (b)(1),1.4(d) assessment?"

(b)(1),1.4(d)

Answer: (b)(1),1.4(d) assessment is pessimistic and somewhat cynical, but there is evidence that the views he describes are true for many Colombians:

- Emigration from Colombia is high and increasing.
 - More than two million Colombians – one out of every 20 – have left the country since 1995.
 - It is estimated that emigration costs Colombia as much as \$2 billion a year in lost capital.
 - The USG just imposed a visa requirement on Colombians passing through the US in transit because so many transit passengers have been requesting asylum recently – 506 in the first three weeks of March alone. The EU countries also imposed a visa requirement on Colombian tourists recently, due to a growing problem with illegal immigration from Colombia.
- According to an opinion poll commissioned by State last year, close to half of those surveyed thought Colombia would benefit from having a [unnamed] foreign country intervene militarily to fight narcotraffickers or to bring about peace with the guerrillas.
- While almost all Colombians undoubtedly want peace and would like to see the peace talks succeed, there is no consensus on how much the GOC should be prepared to offer the guerrillas. According to another 2000 State survey:
 - Eighty-two percent oppose ceding territory to the guerrillas.
 - Sixty-eight percent oppose integrating guerrillas into the security forces.
 - Fifty-nine percent oppose giving the guerrillas a role in the national government.
 - Fifty-seven percent oppose giving the guerrillas financial incentives to disarm.

All that said, the apparent lack of resolve among many members of Colombia's upper and middle classes to confront the country's problems and make sacrifices to overcome them is a matter of concern to U.S. Colombia watchers as well.

(b)(1),1.4(d)

(b)(6) SOLIC-IA (b)(6) 4 April 01

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(b)(6)

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