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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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C-235-02 (CORRECTED COPY)

SUBJECT: (U) DMA-V: SECDEF MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN MOD

1. (c) SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD HELD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ ON MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, AT THE DEFENSE MINISTERIAL IN SANTIAGO, CHILE. RAMIREZ PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND REQUESTED U.S. SUPPORT IN FIVE SPECIFIC AREAS. THE COLOMBIANS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF HAVING SUCH FIRM SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT BUSH AND CONGRESS.

2. (c) SECDEF OPENED BY ASKING ABOUT PRESIDENT URIBE'S FIRST MONTHS IN OFFICE. MOD RAMIREZ SAID THAT PRESIDENT URIBE'S FIRST THREE MONTHS HAVE SEEN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SECURITY SITUATION.

3. (c) SECDEF ASKED THE MOD ABOUT PROGRESS WITH THE DRAFT NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY (NSS). MOD RAMIREZ NOTED THAT COLOMBIA IS NOW REFINING THE DETAILS OF THE DRAFT THAT URIBE PROVIDED TO PRESIDENT BUSH IN SEPTEMBER. COLOMBIA'S GOAL IS NOT ONLY TO ERADICATE NARCOTRAFFICKING, BUT ALSO TO PREVENT KIDNAPPING, ARMS TRAFFICKING AND ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP, BUT SAID COLOMBIA IS ALSO LOOKING TO CONSOLIDATE EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL SUPPORT. SHE SAID THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WERE SKEPTICAL OF PLAN COLOMBIA, BUT MANY OF THEM FACE THE SAME POTENTIAL THREATS, AS GUERRILLAS ARE CAPABLE OF MOVING FROM

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SECDEF CONTROL # X03990 /02

ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER.

4. (c) SECDEF OBSERVED THAT DRUGS ARE A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM, AND THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS IS SO ENORMOUS THAT ELIMINATING PRODUCTION IN ONE COUNTRY WILL ONLY CAUSE IT TO MOVE TO ANOTHER. THIS IS WHY A REGIONAL APPROACH IS CRITICAL. SECDEF SAID OUR FOCUS IS NOT JUST ON DRUGS, BUT ON SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY. SECDEF NOTED THAT HIS PRESENTATION AT THE DMA PLENARY WOULD FOCUS ON: THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDED PEACEKEEPING TRAINING AND COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE REGION; GREATER REGIONAL NAVAL COOPERATION; AND THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE SOVEREIGNTY8 (NOTE: OSD PREFERRED TRANSLATION IS &ESPACIOS INGOBERNADOS8).

5. (c) RAMIREZ MADE FIVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS: (1) HELP WITH MARITIME AND RIVERINE INTERDICTION; (2) AIR INTERDICTION, PARTICULARLY RESTARTING THE AIR BRIDGE DENIAL PROGRAM; (3) THE ABILITY TO USE EXPANDED AUTHORITIES TO FIGHT TERRORISTS, PARTICULARLY THE LEADERSHIP, (4) U.S. HELICOPTER SUPPORT, IN THE FORM OF UH-60 BLACKHAWKS RATHER THAN HUEY II,S; AND (5) U.S. (b)(1),1.4(b),1.4(c) SUPPORT TO ARREST 10-15 TOP ILLEGAL ARMED GROUP LEADERS. SHE CLOSED BY NOTING THAT SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RE-INITIATION OF THE U.S.-COLOMBIAN BILATERAL WORKING GROUP IN FEBRUARY 2003.

6. (c) SECDEF OBSERVED THAT EXPANDED AUTHORITIES ARE IN PLACE AND THAT THE U.S. AGREES WITH COLOMBIA,S FOCUS ON ATTACKING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS. HE CLOSED BY NOTING THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR PRAGUE TO ATTEND THE NATO SUMMIT, AND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY RODMAN AND GENERAL HILL WOULD REMAIN TO LEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION.
CLASSIFIED BY: DO HUMINT SCG MAR 2002
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SECDEF V2
ACTION (U,6) 1
INFO CHAIRS(*) CHAIRS TESTBED(*) SECDEF-C(1)
DOTE(*) SECDEF-C(*) C3I-DASD-DCIO(*) ASD:PA-SMTP(*)
DIR:PAE-RAM(*) ESC-SMTP(*)
+JCP EMAIL CUSTOMER//CHAIRS//
+USDP:ESC

CJCS V6
ACTION (U,8) 2
INFO CHAIRMAN DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED(*) SJS-C(*)
SJS-C(1) NMCC:CWO(*) CMAS(*) J3(*) CMAS(1) J5(*)
J4:LRC(*) JSAMS(*) JSAMS UNCLAS DMS(*)

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