


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

July 31, 2003

85

TO: Doug Feith  
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld   
SUBJECT: Air Bridge Denial

What is the "air bridge denial program" about that is referenced in this cable?

Thanks.

Attach.  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 007053, R 291919Z JUL 03

DHR:dh  
073103-6

.....  
Please respond by 8/8/03

SECDEF CONTROL# X04596 /03

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UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENT(S)  
DOCUMENT BECOMES UNCLASSIFIED

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RTTCZYUW RUEHBOA7053 2101919-CCCC--RUEKQMA.

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

R 291919Z JUL 03

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8154

INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4619

RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0899

RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3047

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0612

RUEHWP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 5888

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0631

RUEAHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC

RHEHND/DIRONDCP WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BOGOTA 007053

BUENOS AIRES FOR MILTON DRUCKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/22/2013

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, SNAR, MARR, KJUS, CO

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR WALTERS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT URIBE

CLASSIFIED BY: CHARGE RICHARD BACA FOR REASONS: 1.5(B), (D).

1. (c) SUMMARY: IN A MEETING WITH ONDCP DIRECTOR WALTERS, PRESIDENT URIBE STATED THAT, DESPITE A VARIETY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HE REGRETS HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DONE EVEN MORE TO SOLVE COLOMBIA'S PROBLEMS IN THE LAST YEAR. DIRECTOR WALTERS NOTED THAT THE USG IS DESIGNING FOLLOW-ON PROGRAMS TO PLAN COLOMBIA, AND WILL SEEK THE GOC'S INPUT. URIBE STATED THAT HE HOPES THE AIR BRIDGE DENIAL PROGRAM WILL BE RESTARTED BY AUGUST 7, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, OR, AT THE LATEST, IN TIME FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD'S VISIT IN LATE AUGUST. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION BECAUSE THE USG KEEPS IDENTIFYING NEW OBSTACLES TO RESTARTING THE PROGRAM. SHE ALSO STATED THAT THE GOC NEEDS A FOURTH SPRAY PACKAGE. DIRECTOR WALTERS STATED THAT THE INL AIR WING IS CONSIDERING FLYING AT NIGHT IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE GROUNDFIRE INCIDENTS. URIBE URGED THE USG TO SUPPORT HIS "FOREST GUARDS" PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE

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7/11

HOPE THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROPOSED BY JUSTICE AND INTERIOR MINISTER FERNANDO LONDONO HOYOS WOULD PROSPER. THE REFORM WOULD ELIMINATE COURT REVIEW OF EXTRADITION REQUESTS, MAKING IT SIMPLY AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS. URIBE STATED HE DOES NOT COMPLETELY AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL, AND THAT COURT REVIEW ADDS LEGITIMACY TO THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

11. ~~(C)~~ URIBE ALSO NOTED THAT RELATIVES CAN VISIT PERSONS INCARCERATED IN COLOMBIA, BUT ARE ROUTINELY DENIED VISAS TO VISIT FAMILY MEMBERS IMPRISONED IN THE UNITED STATES. CONSEQUENTLY, SOME RELATIVES MAY FILE TUTELAS ALLEGING THAT THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE BEING INFRINGED BY EXTRADITION. URIBE STATED HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ISSUANCE OF A VISA IS DISCRETIONARY, BUT THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD GIVE SHORT-TERM VISAS FOR PRISON VISITS, THAT WOULD ELIMINATE A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR THE GOC. DIRECTOR WALTERS NOTED THAT OFTEN IN THESE CASES FAMILY WEALTH DERIVES FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. EVEN IF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN COMMITTING A CRIME, THEY STILL BENEFIT FROM IT, THUS MAKING THEM INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. VISAS. (NOTE: URIBE HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR PATTERSON. ON JULY 3, POST SENT URIBE A LETTER REVIEWING RELEVANT U.S. LAW. IN THE LETTER, THE CONSUL GENERAL OFFERED TO REVIEW THE REFUSAL FOR A VISA OF ANY IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN EXTRADITED COLOMBIAN, AND REQUESTED THAT URIBE IDENTIFY A POINT OF CONTACT WITHIN THE GOC TO ADDRESS SUCH CASES. POST HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO THE LETTER. END NOTE.)

12. ~~(C)~~ FINALLY, URIBE JOKED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO EXTRADITE 10,000 PERSONS, TO HELP SOLVE INCREASING PROBLEMS WITH OVERCROWDING IN COLOMBIA'S JAILS. A YEAR AGO THERE WERE 45,000 COLOMBIAN INMATES, TODAY THERE ARE 55,000 AND BY THE END OF HIS TERM URIBE HOPES TO INCREASE THE POPULATION TO 65,000. DIRECTOR WALTERS NOTED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A GREATER PRISON POPULATION AND A LOWER CRIME RATE.

13. ~~(U)~~ THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED AFTER DIRECTOR WALTERS AND HIS DELEGATION DEPARTED BOGOTA.  
BACA

JOINT STAFF V1

ACTION

(U,6,8)

INFO SJS-C(\*) SJS-C(1) NMCC:CWO(\*) CMAS(\*)  
CMAS(1) JSAMS(\*) AF-CC-POLAD(\*) BOARDMAN(\*) NOOH(\*)  
ESC-SMTP(\*)  
+OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
+CNO WASHINGTON DC  
+USDP:ESC

SECDEF V2

ACTION

(U,6,8)

INFO CHAIRS(\*) CHAIRS TESTBED(\*) CHAIRS DA(\*)  
SECDEF-C(1) DOTE:OSD(\*) SECDEF-C(\*) DIR:PAE-RAM(\*)  
DIR:PAE-EMA(\*)

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