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ZNY CCCCC ZUI RUEKJCS7817 2812308
R 072306Z OCT 04 ZEL
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
TO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBO/USDAO BOGOTA CO
RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/CJCS WASHINGTON DC @ CJCS (UC)
INFO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/DSCA/USDP CHAIRS//
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJ: SECDEF MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE, 30
SEPTEMBER 2004 (U)

1. (G) BEGIN SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD MET WITH
COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE ON 30 SEPTEMBER IN THE PENTAGON.
SECDEF MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) COLOMBIA CONTINUES TO MAKE
TREMENDOUS PROGRESS UNDER PRESIDENT URIBES LEADERSHIP; 2) DOD, AS
WELL AS CONGRESS, IS FOLLOWING THE TALKS WITH THE UNITED SELF DEFENSE
FORCES OF COLOMBIA (AUC); 3) THE AIR BRIDGE DENIAL PROGRAM IS A
SUCCESS AND IT MAKES SENSE TO TALK WITH BRAZIL AND THE CENTRAL
AMERICANS ON A REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE PROGRAM; 4)

(b)(1),1.4(d)

CRIME; 6) WE WOULD LIKE TO SET UP A MECHANISM TO DISCUSS LESSONS
APPLICABLE FROM COLOMBIA TO FIGHTING DRUGS AND TERRORISM IN IRAQ AND
AFGHANISTAN; AND 7) THE U.S. IS GRATEFUL FOR COLOMBIA S EFFORTS TO

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OSD 78265-04

LOCATE THE THREE US HOSTAGES. MINISTER URIBE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) U.S. SUPPORT IS CRITICAL FOR PRESIDENT URIBE S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND PLAN PATRIOTA; 2) COLOMBIA S PROBLEMS ARE PROBLEMS OF GLOBALIZATION, TO WHICH ANY COUNTRY THAT NEGLECTS ITS SECURITY IS VULNERABLE; 3) WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE INTENSITY OF FUTURE OPERATIONS TO PREVENT THE RESURGENCE OF NARCOTRAFFICKING AND TERRORISM; 4) AIR BRIDGE DENIAL IS PRODUCING EXCELLENT RESULTS; 5) COLOMBIA SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO CRAFT A REGIONAL APPROACH TO FIGHTING DRUGS, TERRORISTS AND ORGANIZED CRIME; 6) COLOMBIA IS CONSIDERING A STABILITY MISSION FOR HAITI, BUT IS STRAINED BY CURRENT OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. (c) SECDEF SAID THAT THE USG IS COMMITTED TO HELPING COLOMBIA DEFEAT NARCOTERRORISTS. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DRUGS, TERRORISM, AND ORGANIZED CRIME IS A GROWING WORLDWIDE PROBLEM. PRESIDENT URIBE HAS SHOWN DETERMINATION AND COURAGE IN THIS FIGHT. SECDEF SAID WE COULD LEARN LESSONS FROM COLOMBIA THAT WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO AFGHANISTAN AND SHOULD EXPLORE SETTING UP A MECHANISM. SECDEF SAID HE EXPECTED A BROADER PLAN TO FIGHT DRUGS IN AFGHANISTAN TO EMERGE SHORTLY. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN LEADING THE EFFORT THERE, BUT COLOMBIA HAS EXPERIENCE TO CONTRIBUTE.

3. (c) MINISTER URIBE SAID THAT THE MILITARY IS MAKING GREAT PROGRESS IN THEIR LATEST PHASE OF PLAN PATRIOTA AND THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE IS KEY TO MAINTAINING THE INTENSITY. THE DEPLOYMENT INTO THE FARC S JUNGLE SANCTUARIES IS A BIG STRAIN ON THE MILITARY. THEY ARE STRIKING AT THE FARCS LOGISTICS NETWORK. FOR EXAMPLE, MINISTER URIBE POINTED TO A 120 KM LONG PLANK ROAD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE. THE FARC IS PUSHING INTO EVER MORE REMOTE AREAS, AND IS INCREASINGLY ENCROACHING ON ABORIGINAL POPULATIONS. HE HOPES THAT BY THE END OF THE YEAR THE COCA ACREAGE WILL BE DOWN TO 65,000. MINISTER URIBE ALSO RATTLED OFF AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF STATISTICS SHOWING HOW SECURITY HAD IMPROVED IN COLOMBIA.

4. (c) SECDEF ASKED HOW DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING WITH THE ADC, NOTING THAT THE HILL IS WATCHING THIS VERY CLOSELY. MINISTER URIBE SAID THE DISCUSSIONS WERE DIFFICULT BUT ESSENTIAL TO PRESIDENT URIBE S PLAN.

5. (c) SECDEF SAID THE AIR BRIDGE DENIAL PROGRAM HAD PRODUCED IMPRESSIVE RESULTS, BUT WONDERED WHY THE COLOMBIANS ONLY DESTROY THE PLANES ONCE THEY ARE ON THE GROUND. SECDEF ASKED IF THE COLOMBIANS HAD ANY WAY TO CAPTURE THE CREWS OF THE GROUNDED PLANES. MINISTER URIBE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS THE CREWS ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN THE CARGO AND USUALLY ESCAPE.

(b)(1),1.4(b),1.4(d)

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(b)(1),1.4(b),1.4(d)

8. (c) SECDEF ASKED FOR AN UPDATE ON THE THREE US HOSTAGES HELD BY THE PARC AND THANKED MINISTER URIBE FOR THE SACRIFICES THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY HAS MADE TO FIND THEM.

CLASSIFIED BY: R. PARDO-MAURER, DASD

REASON 1.4 (B)

DECLASSIFY ON: 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

**** CORRECTED COPY ****

SECDEF V2

ACTION SECDEF WASH DC(*)

(U,6,7,8,F)

1

INFO CHAIRS(*) CHAIRS TESTBED(*) CHAIRS2(*) SECDEF-C(1)

DOTS:OSD(*) SECDEF-C(*) C3I-DASD-DCIO(*)

DIR:PAE-EMA(*) ESC AGENT AMERICAS(*) USDP:ESC(*)

ESC-SMTP(*) USDP CHAIRS(*) OSDONSIPRDA(*)

CJCS V6

ACTION

(U,7)

2

INFO CHAIRMAN DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED(*) SJS-C(*)

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