

(95)

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ROUTINE

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PAGE 1 OF 4
USER: OSD1

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Prec: R
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From: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP ISA//
Subj: SECDEF MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE 27 JUN

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OTHERORG/

SUBJ: SECDEF MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE 27 JUN
05 (U)

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SUBJECT: SECDEF MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE, 27
JUNE 2005 (U)

1. (c) BEGIN SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD MET WITH
COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER URIBE ON 27 JUNE IN THE PENTAGON. SECDEF
MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE PLAN COLOMBIA
WAS LAUNCHED IN 2001; THE FOLLOW-ON TO PLAN COLOMBIA SHOULD BE BASED
ON A COMMON STRATEGIC PICTURE; 2) THERE IS U.S. BIPARTISAN SUPPORT
TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING COLOMBIA; 3) THE HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATION

PAGE 02 RUEWMFS1191 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PROCESS NEEDS ATTENTION FROM COLOMBIA; 3)

(b)(1),1.4(d)

MINISTER URIBE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1) HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SECURITY TRENDS, ALTHOUGH THE FARC IS
STILL ALIVE AND WANTS TO MAKE ITSELF FELT; 2) COLOMBIA WILL SHORTLY
PRESENT SOME IDEAS ON WHAT SHOULD FOLLOW PLAN COLOMBIA; 3)

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

4) DISCUSSIONS ON A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENT SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE ELECTORAL PICTURE IN COLOMBIA IS
RESOLVED; 5) THE US SHOULD CONSIDER PLACING AN ANTINARCOTICS BASE IN
COLOMBIA'S CARIBBEAN. END SUMMARY

2. (c) FARC OFFENSIVE. SECDEF AND MOD URIBE DISCUSSED THE RECENT
FARC ATTACK IN SOUTHWEST COLOMBIA NEAR THE BORDER WITH ECUADOR.
FARC ATTACKED OIL WELLS AND AMBUSHED THE COLOMBIAN ARMY STATIONED IN
PUERTO ASIS, INFLECTING 25 CASUALTIES. MOD URIBE SAID ?THE SNAKE IS
STILL ALIVE? AND THE FARC ?WANTS TO MAKE ITSELF FELT?. PRESIDENT
URIBE VISITED THE SITE OF THE ATTACK, WHICH HAD PRODUCED THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF MILITARY CASUALTIES DURING THE URIBE ADMINISTRATION.
SECDEF OFFERED CONDOLENCES. MOD URIBE SAID THAT HE REMAINS
?OPTIMISTIC? ABOUT MILITARY PROGRESS IN THE FIELD. HE SAID

PAGE 03 RUEWMFS1191 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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OSD 76953-05

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PAGE 2 OF 4
USER: OSD1

TOR: 182211Z Jul 05

PRESIDENT URIBE'S CHANCES OF WINNING REELECTION ARE GOOD AND HIS POLICIES WILL CONTINUE EVEN IF HE WERE NOT RE-ELECTED.

3. ~~(C)~~ FOLLOW-ON TO PLAN COLOMBIA. SECDEF ASKED ABOUT THE PLAN FOR AFTER PLAN COLOMBIA [NOTE: PLAN COLOMBIA FORMALLY EXPIRES IN SEPTEMBER 2005]. AMBASSADOR MORENO REPLIED THAT THERE IS NO PLAN AS SUCH, BUT SECRETARY RICE HAD SAID THE US IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING SUPPORT FOR COLOMBIA. DASD-CN LONG NOTED THAT THE INTERAGENCY IS DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE, AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY. SECDEF TOLD URIBE THAT COLOMBIA HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. THIS WILL HELP THE ADMINISTRATION AS IT DEVELOPS A FOLLOW-ON STRATEGY TO PLAN COLOMBIA. MOD URIBE SAID HE IS WORKING WITH PRESIDENT URIBE ON A FOLLOW-ON TO PLAN COLOMBIA, AND WILL ALSO TALK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO OUTLINE GOC'S IDEAS FOR A FOLLOW-ON PLAN. SECDEF NOTED THAT THE WORLD HAS CHANGED QUITE A LOT SINCE PLAN COLOMBIA WAS LAUNCHED IN 2001. DASD-WHA PARDO-MAURER ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT STAY ON AUTOPILOT, WORKING WITH OUTDATED ASSUMPTIONS AND WITHOUT A NEW PLAN OR VISION. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A NEW PLAN SHOULD STRENGTHEN SECURITY TIES BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA. AMBASSADOR MORENO WENT FURTHER, SAYING THAT MEXICO'S PLAN PUEBLA PANAMA, WHICH IS

PAGE 04 RUEWMFS1191 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUPPORTED BY THE INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ENVISIONS SUCH A RELATIONSHIP.

4. ~~(C)~~ HUMAN RIGHTS. SECDEF SAID THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATION PROCESS NEEDS ATTENTION FROM COLOMBIA. SOME \$88 MILLION IN USG ASSISTANCE IS IN JEOPARDY DUE TO THE LACK OF MOVEMENT ON CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. OF NO LESS CONCERN WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT PERCEIVED LACK OF PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES MIGHT JEOPARDIZE SUPPORT FOR COLOMBIA IN THE US CONGRESS. MOD URIBE REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING PROGRESS ON THESE CASES, BUT SOME CASES HAD BEEN POLITICIZED. COLOMBIA'S JUSTICE SYSTEM WORKS SLOWLY, AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE CASES HAD BECOME BACKLOGGED. MOD URIBE SAID THAT COLOMBIA IS REORGANIZING ITS MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM, WITH WELCOME SUPPORT FROM SOUTHCOM. AMBASSADOR MORENO SAID THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY ON THIS ISSUE AND RELATIONS WITH STATE ARE EXCELLENT.

5. ~~(C)~~ COUNTERDRUG. MOD URIBE REFERRED TO RECENT SETBACKS IN COCA ERADICATION, NOTING THAT UP TO 5 CROPS A YEAR ARE BEING PRODUCED NOW ON THE SAME ACREAGE. SINCE PLAN COLOMBIA BEGAN HOWEVER, TOTAL HECTARES IS DOWN FROM 170,000/180,000 TO 75,000/85,000. THE GOC IS MAKING A HUGE EFFORT TO ERADICATE COCA BUT NEEDS ADDITIONAL

PAGE 05 RUEWMFS1191 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EQUIPMENT. SOME 8,000 HECTARES ARE BEING ERADICATED BY HAND, A FIGURE HE EXPECTS MAY DOUBLE.

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

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PAGE 3 OF 4
USER: OSD1

TOR: 182211Z Jul 05

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

8. ~~(C)~~ OFFER OF ANTI-NARCOTICS BASE IN THE CARIBBEAN. MOD URIBE SAID THAT DRUG TRAFFICKING ?PERMEATES? THE CARIBBEAN, AND THAT COLOMBIA WOULD TRY TO DO MORE TO WORK WITH THE CARIBBEAN STATES.

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

PAGE 02 RUEWMFS1192 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

9. ~~(C)~~ MOD URIBE MENTIONED THE UPCOMING JULY VISIT BY THE AFGHAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR. SECDEF THANKED MOD URIBE FOR COLOMBIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

ASD RODMAN HAS REVIEWED AND CLEARED THIS CABLE.

CLASSIFIED BY: R. PARDO-MAURER, DASD

REASON 1.5 (B), (D)

DECLASSIFY ON: 27 JUNE 2014

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PAGE 4 OF 4
USER: OSD1

TOR: 182211Z Jul 05

PAGE 03 RUEWMFS1192 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 04 RUEWMFS1192 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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