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001. email	Brooks Bash to Robert Bradtke. Subject: FW: Congressional Pkg: Annual Sotckpile Certification. (19 pages)	01/15/2001	P1/b(1)
002. email	John Wiegmann to Steven Andreasen. Subject: FW: Congressional Pkg: Annual Stockpile Certification. (19 pages)	01/16/2001	P1/b(1)

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/12/01 9:01:09 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT State Department Press Briefing -- January 12, 2001 [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Countryman, Mary Ellen (PRESS)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Cruise, Daniel L. (PRESS)
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Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 6

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2001 1:05 P.M.

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MR. REEKER: Glad to have you here, Barry, and the rest of you too on this Friday before a holiday weekend. Welcome back to the State Department. As you know, Secretary Albright is on her way back to Washington, having left Paris this morning our time. We expect her back at Andrews Air Force Base sometime before 4 o'clock this afternoon.

And with that, I am happy to take your questions. Barry.

Q Yesterday you hadn't heard from Iraq about the pilot, now described as "Missing in Action." Have you heard yet?

MR. REEKER: There has been no response from the Government of Iraq to the diplomatic note that we delivered day before yesterday as part of our demarche. As you know, we delivered that note to the Iraqi Interest Section of the Algerian Embassy here in Washington, and a similar message was delivered to Iraq in New York and in Geneva, demanding that the Iraqi Government provide an accounting for Commander Michael Scott Speicher, which they are obligated to do under international law. But, again, we have not had a response from them at this time.

Q Do you expect a response within a matter of a few days?

MR. REEKER: That is obviously up to them. We would like to get a response. As I said, it was two days ago, so we will be waiting for their response.

Q The fact that you have intermediaries, is that possibly the reason you haven't heard yet?

MR. REEKER: I'm not sure what intermediaries --

Q The Interest Sections. I mean, you know --

MR. REEKER: Well, as we discussed, we delivered that to Iraqi diplomats at their Interest Section here in Washington.

Q So two days to not hear is not unusual or alarming or disquieting?

MR. REEKER: I am not going to speculate on it, Barry. We would like to have them fulfill their obligations and provide the information, which we believe they have, to provide an accounting as we have requested.

Q And you don't know since there has been no communication if these notes have actually been transmitted, however they do it, back to Baghdad?

MR. REEKER: I couldn't tell you that, but we have delivered those notes in the manner I described. That would be Wednesday afternoon in Washington, and yesterday in New York and Geneva.

Q While we're at it, Charles Krauthammer, in a column that was extremely skeptical of what you folks call a peace process, says that an Iraqi division has been seen moving westward -- of course he says prepared possibly to attack Israel. But has there been any ominous Iraqi movements, and do you factor that into your mediation between -- in these last days between Israel and the Palestinians?

MR. REEKER: I am not aware of that column. I am afraid I haven't read that today. I don't have any information on that. I would be happy to check into that for you, Barry.

Q Oh, and by the way, where we stand in the Middle East. Ross is still in town?

MR. REEKER: I was waiting for you to ask that. Yes, Ambassador Ross is still here. I have nothing further to add today on Dennis' trip. We continue to watch the progress of the contacts underway, and we are of course in touch with both parties. And as I said yesterday, once a decision has been made on travel I will certainly let you know.

Q Is it the State Department's reading that they are making progress? I understand by the reports they met and they broke up --

MR. REEKER: Yes, I think it appears that talks held last night between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were of a positive nature. The two sides have indicated that these talks are going to continue for the next two days, and we are certainly encouraged by that.

As I said yesterday, we are also encouraged by some of the practical results from the Palestinian-Israeli security contacts: a general reduction in the level of violence, as well as the lifting of some Israeli restrictions on movement by Palestinians. So we will continue to watch this closely, watch that progress, and I will get back to you if we have any news on travel.

Q Why would you describe the talks last night as positive nature, when my understanding is the Palestinian spokesman after those talks said that he was still -- that they were still not accepting Clinton's offer? They called it a partial agreement? Do you have other information that you can enlighten us as to why these --

MR. REEKER: No, I think I gave you what I can. They were talking; that, in and of itself, is something that we think is important and positive. And they have indicated that they are going to continue those talks for the next two days, so I think there is something positive in that. And I also said we were encouraged by some of the practical results that we have actually seen from the security talks that they have had.

So I don't think it requires any further parsing. It is just a matter of watching those talks, and then we will

let you know if we have anything further in mind.

Q Can you tell us where Susan Rice is? I understand she is either in East --

MR. REEKER: Was there anything else on the Middle East, and then we can switch?

Q Yes, sort of tangential. I wondered if you had any comments on Israel's admission that it doesn't have maps for the thousands of mines which it or its proxies laid in South Lebanon?

MR. REEKER: I don't have any comment. I saw a report to that effect. I understood somebody was going to try to get back to you on that. But I don't think they were able to review that in the time that I had to come out here. Obviously our Office of Humanitarian Demining will be looking into that, but at this point I have only seen that as a report.

Q With the two more days of talks, are you not at all a little frustrated that they keep prolonging this? Secretary Albright said the other day that she was kind of tired of this "kicking the can along the road" that was being done, because the road was running out. There is not much pavement left to it. So is it --

MR. REEKER: Well, I think obviously we would be even closer now to the end of the road --

Q Exactly. But I mean -- but wouldn't you prefer to see something concrete come out of these talks, instead of them just agreeing to meet again?

MR. REEKER: Well, Matt, I mean, I think we are in the same position that we have described now for a couple of days. The President said Sunday night, and the Secretary has echoed that since then, that at the request of the parties that he will use his remaining time to try to help narrow differences.

Q No, what I want to get at is that -- you don't -- your comments that you made so far don't seem to convey a sense of urgency that perhaps --

MR. REEKER: Matt, this is their peace process, and we have said that many times before.

Q So you don't care?

MR. REEKER: The parties are meeting --

Q But I mean, I just don't --

MR. REEKER: That is an amazing extrapolation of what I've told you today.

Q I didn't mean to end it with that. I mean, you don't care if the only thing they are able to do is to agree to talk for two more days? That is not a --

MR. REEKER: Look, obviously we would like to see them be able to come to an agreement. That is the goal of all this.

Q And sooner rather than later?

MR. REEKER: But I have given you where we stand today. Obviously there isn't much to add in terms of what we have been talking about for several days, beginning with the President's comments Sunday night. They are obviously aware of the time-table, and I just really don't have anything further to add to what the Secretary and the President have both said on the subject.

Q Phil, I forgot why Ross would be going to the Middle East. He has been on hold so long. Initially it was security, mostly to try to help lower the tensions --

MR. REEKER: Well, since, Barry, we don't have any travel to announce, I can't tell you what the travel would be.

Q No, no, no -- that's not -- but what is he holding for? What I'm trying to say is, when the probability of a Ross trip first surfaced, the main thing was we want to see the conflict -- we want to see violence curbed. And it seemed that his function was to see what he could do to contribute to that, right?

But you say there have been some results; now they're actually into negotiations. Would Mr. Ross join those negotiations or --

MR. REEKER: As I said, I have nothing for you on Dennis' travel. He is here in Washington. There isn't any decision to announce, and when there is we can tell you where and when.

One more on the Middle East?

Q Are there any plans right now to try to iron out a formal cease-fire written agreement at this point, building on the progress in the security talks?

MR. REEKER: I am not aware of anything further than what I have told you today. You might want to talk to the parties.

Q I understand Susan Rice is either in Eritrea or Ethiopia. Can you tell me where she is, why she's gone, what her agenda is, and all that jazz?

MR. REEKER: Sure. Susan Rice has been traveling to Eritrea and Ethiopia from yesterday, Thursday the 11th, and she will return to the United States on Monday the 15th, obviously leaving the region probably on Sunday to get back here on Monday.

She is discussing in both Ethiopia and Eritrea steps to consolidate the peace agreement signed on December 12th with the leaders of both countries and with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General -- that is Ambassador Legwaila -- and other officials of the UN mission in Ethiopia and also in Eritrea.

She is also discussing steps to strengthen bilateral relations with both countries. They have honored the cessation of hostilities agreement which was signed in June, and the December 12th peace agreement, so she is obviously following up on those things.

In terms of exactly where she is this moment, I am afraid I can't tell you whether she is still in Eritrea or in Ethiopia.

Q Just to hit both of those countries? She's not going --

MR. REEKER: Hitting both of those countries and returning to Washington.

Q And when you say consolidating the peace agreement, what exactly is she doing? What are the -- is there a particular issue that she had to go over to --

MR. REEKER: I think she is reviewing that with them since the signing. You know, we are generally pleased with the progress to date on implementation of the peace plan and the parties' commitment to it. We want to discuss some remaining areas of possible concern, but I just don't have an explicit readout of those. We are reassured by both parties' rapid release of prisoners of war and civilian detainees. And as we discussed before, both countries' leaders have assured us that they will fully implement the agreement, so she is going to follow up on that.

And I would be happy to try to get you a readout once she is back in Washington.

Q Do you know when she left?

MR. REEKER: When she left? She is traveling there since yesterday. She may have left Wednesday night in order to make the connections to be there in the region yesterday.

Q The Secretary's plane is supposed to come home -- in fact, she may be --

MR. REEKER: As I announced at the very beginning of the briefing, she is on the plane and should arrive in Washington by 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Q Assistant Secretary Inderfurth today made some comments about the soon-to-be enacted new UN sanctions against the Taliban, and he made specific mention that Pakistan would be expected to fulfill these, as all UN members would be.

Can you expand at all on that?

MR. REEKER: I don't think there is much need to expand. I mean, these are UN Security Council resolutions. All UN members are expected to promote the fulfillment of those resolutions, and that would be whatever any country, including Pakistan, can do to get the Taliban to live up to their obligations.

Q Is there doubt Pakistan would be doing this?

MR. REEKER: I don't have any particular doubt in mind. It is very clear cut what the resolution says and what is expected of the Taliban, and that is to see that Usama bin Laden is delivered to a country where he can be brought to justice.

Q The Taliban foreign minister today reiterated that they had no intention of expelling him. Do you think the new UN sanctions are going to be of much effect?

MR. REEKER: I think we have covered that before. That is what they need to do, and we will continue to work on that to that effect. They need to realize that there are international obligations to which they need to live up, and that is what we will be expecting from them.

Q Can I stay on that subject? The last month, I think, or the last year, at the UN there was another 30-day limit, time limit, for the Taliban to hand over bin Laden. Is that deadline coming up?

MR. REEKER: I'm not exactly sure what you are --

Q I'll go back and check and see.

Q The resolution contains a 30-day grace period.

Q January 19th is the deadline.

MR. REEKER: Thank you, Terri.

Q You're welcome.

MR. REEKER: That's what you're referring to?

Q Yes. (Laughter.)

MR. REEKER: Betsy.

Q Do you have anything on the American who was kidnapped in Chechnya?

MR. REEKER: I don't have any further details or any particular news there. We continue to be in close contact with Russian authorities about Mr. Gluck. In fact, Secretary Albright discussed this case with Foreign Minister Ivanov last night in Paris. Our Embassy in Moscow continues to engage with the Russian Government in an effort to establish Mr. Gluck's welfare and whereabouts and to secure his release.

As I indicated yesterday, we continue to stay in contact with Médecins Sans Frontières Holland, which is the organization Mr. Gluck is affiliated with, also with Action Against Hunger, another organization, and also with Mr. Gluck's family, and obviously repeat our call for his immediate release.

Q On the same subject? Ivanov? Did the little matter of Kaliningrad come up?

MR. REEKER: As I understand it, in the Secretary's talk last night with Foreign Minister Ivanov, who was in Paris also for the dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Vedrine of France, the Secretary and Foreign Minister Ivanov talked about a number of issues, including Kaliningrad, the Gusinskiy case and Media Most, and overall the state of US-Russian relations. The Secretary encouraged openness and transparency in our continuing talks.

This obviously was the last time before she leaves office January 20th where the two foreign ministers are meeting, and I am just told that they covered a lot of ground in their talks. Obviously they have covered a lot of ground in their relationship over the past four years, and last night's meeting was really a chance to reflect on their shared history and the state of relations, and some of these current concerns.

But in terms of any specific responses, I just don't have anything further.

Q So no explanation on what's going on?

MR. REEKER: I don't have any more detailed readout on that.

Q Do you know -- was that dinner conversation, or did they have a separate meeting before or after the dinner?

MR. REEKER: As I understand it, they did have a separate meeting. I believe they actually rode together to the dinner, which was, as I said, hosted by the French.

Q Was there a State Department reaction to Senator Helms' proposal that Catholic Charities and other humanitarian groups take over the foreign aid distribution function of the State Department?

MR. REEKER: I think you probably all saw yesterday a statement put out by the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, Brady Anderson. We could help you get a copy of that, Barry, if you want. It was released yesterday morning, I believe.

Mr. Anderson noted the important role of faith-based organizations, what they can and do play in our foreign assistance program, and I would just echo what he said and the fact that those types of organizations have played a very important role. We share Senator Helms' views on the contributions faith-based organizations can make in promoting our fundamental values, values shared by the American people generally.

I think, as Brady Anderson indicated, a lot of progress has been made in the last four years, and certainly the last eight years, in expanding our partnership with such organizations. Their work is indeed critical to meeting the basic needs of millions around the world who are less fortunate than we are. I think US AID has shown considerable leadership and talent in their programming, in the evaluation, the oversight and the efficiency of programs which help developing countries to create strategies for growth, which is obviously important for our own security, our own prosperity, and obviously a reflection of our values, the things on which our foreign policy is built.

So we think that in terms of creating economic and political freedom for people around the world, these programs are very important. And Mr. Anderson also reflected appreciation to Senator Helms' laying out his priorities and the contribution he continues to make to the debate on these issues.

Q Excuse me. Is there a "but" there? I mean, that's his proposition --

MR. REEKER: What kind of "but" are you looking for?

Q Well, the "but" is whether the US State Department thinks it is a good idea that this Government office dissolve, be dissolved, and the function --

MR. REEKER: No, I think our position has been very much one not; that we work very closely with AID. In fact, Barry, as you know very well, working with the Congress, in fact, and working with Senator Helms, Secretary Albright took great strides to increase our coordination with the US Agency for International Development, and particularly given the important role they play, as I said, in helping developing countries to create their own strategies for growth.

And I think it is important that they help us to identify common ground that can unite, even in this country, on a bipartisan basis, our leaders behind international development policy that will advance American interests and be true to our values at the same time. And as I said, we believe very strongly that the success of our neighbors and others in the world brings opportunities for us, and of course their own problems pose threats for us.

So once again, as I said, AID I think has been shown considerable leadership in the area of international development, in terms of developing programs to fit the needs of developing countries, evaluating those programs, oversight of those programs, and ensuring efficiency of those programs, many of which -- most of which -- are carried out by organizations, including the faith-based organizations which Senator Helms refers to.

Q So in his prepared remarks, Senator Helms has proposed sending someone down to the UN and asking them to look at the International Criminal Court Treaty, and then having them cross Ambassador Scheffer's name off of it. Is that a responsible thing to suggest?

MR. REEKER: I don't think I have anything to add to what the President has said, and the Secretary as well, in terms of the ICC. The President directed that we sign that treaty in order that we may have a voice. He outlined the problems, what we saw as the flaws, and did not recommend that it be sent to the Senate for

ratification until those things are addressed. And obviously that is something we will continue to work on.

Q But those comments, though, were all made before Senator Helms' speech yesterday. And you don't have any -- you don't want to comment on that proposition? I mean, is it --

MR. REEKER: I don't think it serves any use for me to offer anything else. I mean, Senator Helms is free to make his own reflections on these things. We are all aware of that. We have made our reflections in terms of what the President and Secretary have said, and I just don't have anything to add.

Q Having watched the Secretary for four years, and Mr. Christopher for four years, try to coax some money for the State Department on foreign aid operations out of the Congress, and particularly out of Senator Helms, do you find it interesting that he now says at this juncture that if his plan goes through, faith-based - - I'm not sure I understand faith-based -- but certainly that private humanitarian groups dispense aid, that he would find it reasonable to increase appropriations, increase money for the State Department for foreign operations?

Doesn't that show that all along he may have harbored a view that you all were making a good argument?

MR. REEKER: Well, in fact, Barry, I think you are absolutely right that this has been a top priority of Secretary Albright over the past four years in her tenure, and of the Administration in the last eight years. She has focused heavily, as you know, on trying to get the resources for America's first line of defense; having the State Department and our diplomatic resources at maximum readiness to implement foreign policy, which is crucial to our interests, as I said, in terms of security, in terms of prosperity, in terms of reflecting our values around the world.

And in fact, in this four years the Secretary has led the effort which has resulted in a real increase of 17 percent in the State Department's budget. As the Secretary said in a number of her recent remarks as she prepares to leave office, she thinks it is vitally important that we continue on that pace and increase funding for what are important needs that serve to protect all Americans.

So obviously that will be up to a new Administration. We will continue here at the State Department under new leadership to work with Congress, which is vitally necessary to do that, but to explain to the Congress and to the American people more broadly why our foreign affairs agencies need to be fully funded to meet the needs of an ever more challenging world.

Q I guess that answers the next question. Donald Rumsfeld is off and running even before the new Administration, you know, saying more guns, more guns. I mean, you know, here's a man that's going to

head the Pentagon, and not surprisingly he wants them to have more money, more weapons. Well, it is surprising. Not every Secretary of Defense has taken that position.

Would you like General Powell to go off and running and say more help, more resources for foreign policy, on the notion that stopping wars through diplomacy is maybe cheaper than fighting it?

MR. REEKER: I am certainly not going to begin at this point trying to speak for Secretary-designate Powell because the Secretary-designate and his team have been very explicit, very forthcoming, that they do not wish to comment or get involved in these arguments until the Secretary-designate's confirmation hearing, which I am sure you will all be in attendance next Wednesday, the 17th of January.

Q Is it Wednesday or Tuesday?

MR. REEKER: It is Wednesday.

Q That's what I thought.

MR. REEKER: Anyway, let's take a moment to do a little sidebar that his hearing is scheduled for Wednesday the 17th of January, I believe 10:30 a.m., at the Hart Senate Office Building. And just to clarify for those of you that were confused, I believe there had been a schedule for the 16th. My understanding is that there is a memorial service for the late Senator Alan Cranston that will be held in California on the 16th, and obviously a number of senators would expect to attend that memorial service.

So the 17th, Wednesday at 10:30 at the Hart Senate Office Building. Obviously they can give you the details for attending that.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. REEKER: I believe there is a single day scheduled for this.

Q Phil, you didn't really answer Barry's question.

MR. REEKER: I didn't get to because we were doing our sort of side --

Q No, but you said you didn't want to speak for General Powell, but that wasn't what Barry's question was. Barry was asking you whether you, as speaking for the current State Department Administration, would like to see General Powell, when he comes into office, pursue Secretary Albright's --

MR. REEKER: That is exactly the subject I was getting to when I stopped to hyphenate.

Q Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were -- okay, go ahead.

MR. REEKER: So obviously, as Secretary Albright has said, this is something that needs to be pursued in terms of getting for the State Department the resources that we think are necessary for the foreign affairs community to provide the first line of defense in American foreign policy and to help us articulate to the world and to our own public the importance of doing that.

Secretary-designate Powell and the entire new Administration obviously will formulate how they intend to go about doing that. And at this point, on the 12th of January, it is premature to say that. But I think Secretary Albright has certainly expressed her view that that needs to continue to be a priority in getting resources and making sure that our foreign policy needs are met.

Q When Senator Helms talks about getting rid of AID, the State Department wasn't crazy about folding USIA into the Department either. Has there been any assessment made since that's happened, since it was done?

MR. REEKER: That, to my recollection, is not at all an accurate description of the State Department's view of that.

Q Oh, okay. So you did want to?

MR. REEKER: I think that was clearly the view, and Secretary Albright worked very closely with Senator Helms, in fact, on the consolidation of both the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the US Information Agency into the Department of State, the feeling being that in a post-Cold War world our needs were better served to unite these functions. Public diplomacy, as well as arms control, are absolutely vital components of our foreign policy and what the State Department does.

That is just over a year since the USIA integration became effective. I can speak from my own experience that it can be a very positive thing, and our posts in the field were already -- they worked extremely closely as part of the embassy, are doing that here in Washington. We do that all the time. We in Public Affairs obviously are under the Under Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy, and that has been very effective and an example of where Secretary Albright and the State Department work very closely with Senator Helms and the Congress.

Q (Inaudible) -- the AID suggestion as well that you would be in favor of it?

MR. REEKER: I don't even want to suggest that because that's obviously not where we are at this point. Different things are done for different reasons.

The point I tried to make in response to Barry's original question, some time ago, was our feeling about the importance of AID and the fact that we work extremely closely with them. That is another thing that happened as part of the broader discussion of consolidation in the foreign affairs agencies was having a much closer link between AID and the Department of State. And I think that has been something we have seen very much in the field.

Q Similar to the USIA situation, that if you're working closer together it's not such a far leap that it would be absorbed here?

MR. REEKER: I just don't think you can make those decisions based on that. They are very separate issues. It really is apples and oranges.

Q Can we switch to Ambassador Scheffer for a minute? Is he in Cambodia or is --

MR. REEKER: He is in Cambodia, yes.

Q What is he doing there?

MR. REEKER: Ambassador Scheffer is in Cambodia. Let me tell you what he is doing there. In fact, I saw on one of the competing wire services that he had made some remarks to them just recently from Phnom Penh.

He is visiting Phnom Penh to consult with relevant government officials, Cambodian Government officials, on the final steps needed to establish extraordinary chambers to bring senior Khmer Rouge leaders from the 1975-79 period, to bring them to justice. He is returning to Washington, I believe, tomorrow night. He departed Washington traveling to Cambodia Monday night.

As you will see from some of the remarks he has made himself in Phnom Penh, he has commended Prime Minister Hun Sen for his effort to date and encouraged the Government of Cambodia to work with the United Nations to reach final agreement on the particulars of the chambers. And we certainly welcome the action that has been taken by the Cambodian National Assembly to approve the draft law, and we look forward to seeing the Cambodian Senate complete its work and then have final consideration by King

Sihanouk, and finally the consultations necessary between the Cambodians and the United Nations to implement the agreement expeditiously.

Q Did he bring with him any specific suggestions or reservations as to the tribunal?

MR. REEKER: I'm not aware of the specifics that he had in terms of his talking points with senior officials there. Obviously we can't speak for the United Nations or for the Government of Cambodia. We do feel that they still need to come together and finalize the outstanding issues as I just outlined because these extraordinary chambers are going to include international participation, the goal of course being to bring these former Khmer Rouge leaders to justice.

Q So now that you've had a closer look at the legislation, are you satisfied with the provisions for international participation? When you last spoke about this, you gave it kind of qualified preliminary approval. Any update?

MR. REEKER: That would be the statement that we released on the 2nd of January?

Q That's right, yes.

MR. REEKER: I don't think I really have much to add to that since Ambassador Scheffer is there having these discussions with the Cambodian senior officials literally as we speak. The process obviously that is going on is designed to elicit agreement on such issues as indictment and judgment between international personnel and Cambodian officials, and I think I outlined --

Q The process? Which process is this? The consultations with the United Nations or with -- ?

MR. REEKER: Right. Obviously I discussed a process that needs to take place in the Cambodian Government in terms of the Senate, and then a final review by King Sihanouk. And then we look forward to consultations between the UN and the Cambodian Government, and the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding, which is obviously necessary. And we will continue to play an appropriate role in terms of our working with the UN. And I will try to see if we can get you more after Ambassador Scheffer returns, if you are still interested.

Q And the other thing is that this small country seems to be a big destination this week for senior US officials. I noticed that Admiral Blair is there as well, with some other people, with some folks from Washington. Do you know anything about why they --

MR. REEKER: I would direct you to the Pentagon.

Q What country is that? Cambodia?

Q Yes. My understanding is that he is with someone from the State Department, but I'm not sure.

MR. REEKER: I am not aware of that. I'll be happy to check with our --

Q Maybe it's not State. Maybe it's a -- (inaudible) -- or something.

MR. REEKER: Anything else on this Friday?

Q Thank you very much.

MR. REEKER: Have a good weekend.

(The briefing was concluded at 1:40 P.M.)

1/12/01

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Brooks Bash to Robert Bradtke. Subject: FW: Congressional Pkg: Annual Sotckpile Certification. (19 pages)	01/15/2001	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange-Record (Sept 97-Jan 01) ([Jesse Helms])
OA/Box Number: 620000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/12/2001-01/16/2001]

2006-1363-F

vz5643

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/16/01 3:04:57 PM
FROM Scharfen, Jonathan R. (LEGAL)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Urgent Clearance - Colombia Human Rights [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Hammer, Michael A. (INTERAM)
Hanley, Timothy P. (INTERAM/INTERN)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Mattingly, Amanda C. (INTERAM/Intern)
McIlhenny, William W. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Wallace, Joanna B. (INTERAM)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Walldorff, Rebecca L. (LEGIS)

CARBON_COPY

DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
DeVine, Stephen (Legal)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Scharfen, Jonathan R. (LEGAL)
Wiegmann, John B. "Brad" (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Clarke, Richard A. (TNT)
Cressey, Roger W. (TNT)
Fenzel, Michael R. (TNT)
Gordon-Hagerty, Lisa E. (TNT)
Grandrimo, Nicole M. (TNT/INTERN)
Green, Charles A. (TNT)
Hunker, Jeffrey A. (TNT)
Kurtz, Paul B. (TNT)
Lieberson, Donna P. (TNT)
McCauley, Peter A. (TNT)
Mulligan, George D. (TNT)
Pierce, Eric A. (TNT)
Plunkett, Debora A. (TNT)
Robinson, Jack A. (TNT)
Rosa, Frederick M. (TNT)
Roundtree, Beverly (TNT)
Telleen, Erik K. (TNT/INTERN)

Wolosky, Lee S. (TNT)

TEXT_BODY

Mike,
Please see some suggested edits. @legal concurs.
Miles,
I suggested a few edits to some of your additions (inserted the Gov of Colombia for "we") and deleted the last reference to conditions as we had already mentioned conditions at the first of the para and in the report itself -- these are just suggestions and we can concur w/ or w/o them.
Thanks
Jock

-----Original Message-----

From: Lackey,
Miles M. (LEGIS)
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2001 10:40 AM
To: @INTERAM
- Inter-American; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs;
@LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @RUDMAN;
@TRANSNATIONAL - Transnational Threats; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: FW: Urgent Clearance - Colombia Human Rights [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

I've
suggested some edits in the POTUS letter.
Clear from Miles.

-----Original
Message-----

From: Hammer, Michael A. (INTERAM)
Sent: Monday,
January 15, 2001 6:48 PM
To: @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Cc: Rosa,
Frederick M. (TNT); @TRANSNATIONAL - Transnational Threats; @RUDMAN;
@INTERAM - Inter-American; Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Subject: FW:
Urgent Clearance - Colombia Human Rights [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Everyone
- Pls use Fred's edited version below and get comments/changes to me soonest. Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosa,
Frederick M. (TNT)
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2001 2:50 PM
To: @INTERAM
- Inter-American
Cc: @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative
Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs;
@RUDMAN;
@TRANSNATIONAL - Transnational Threats
Subject: FW: Urgent Clearance
- Colombia Human Rights [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Mike:

1.
Although a little long and somewhat repetitive in places, I think the drafts are basically OK.
2. I've made minor corrections and suggested changes to both documents, plus cleaned up the report (which must have been scanned in)
3. There were several places in the report where I think it would be useful to put the current data into historical context to show the positive trend; one example would be the actions taken against the paramilitaries, which I believe increased significantly in calendar year 2000. Also I think it would be useful to point out more directly that GOC is now itself in much more significant direct dialogue with various domestic and international human rights groups.

Regards, Fred

-----Original Message-----

From: Hammer,
Michael A. (INTERAM)
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2001 1:11 PM
To: Schwartz,
Eric P. (MULTI); Scharfen, Jonathan R. (LEGAL); Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS); Rosa, Frederick M. (TNT); @RUDMAN
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs;
@TRANSNATIONAL

- Transnational Threats; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: Urgent Clearance
- Colombia Human Rights [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

All

- need you feedback soonest. This is the State drafted Presidential Letter of Transmittal as well as voluntary human rights report. We need to get input back to State soonest so they can send forward to us in final and we can get it signed out.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT ColombiaPOTUstransmittal.doc
Department of State

DRAFT LETTER

Dear (name)

The challenges faced by Colombia are a matter of national security interest to the United States. Our assistance is crucial to maintaining our cooperative counterdrug efforts and aiding the Colombian government and people to preserve Colombia's democracy and address their other urgent socioeconomic challenges. I am gratified by the bipartisan support that our assistance to Colombia has received.

Last August, pursuant section 3201 (a) (4) of the Plan Colombia portion of the Emergency Supplemental Act, I decided to waive several human rights and drug eradication conditions contained in the Act because I determined that it was in the national security interest of the United States to furnish assistance to the Government of Colombia.

In the period since I made that determination, the Government of Colombia has made important progress in a number of the human rights areas covered by these certification requirements. In addition, the Government of Colombia has also made progress on other human rights issues not directly addressed in the legislation. But more needs to be done.

Enclosed is a report outlining the progress the Government of Colombia has made on the conditions contained in section 3201. Both the illicit drug trade and human rights remain central issues in our bilateral relations with Colombia. To this end, the United States Government will continue to engage the Government of Colombia on

concrete measures it should take to improve all aspects of its human rights performance.

I am confident that the bipartisan support for Colombia which has been shared in the past will continue.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

Enclosure:
Presidential Report on Progress of Human Rights in
Colombia.

01/15/01 MON 12:06 FAX 202 647 0791

The Honorable
Joseph R. Biden, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

The Honorable
Jesse Helms,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

The Honorable -
Robert C. Byrd, Chairman,
Committee on Appropriations,
United States Senate.

The Honorable
Ted Stevens,
Committee on Appropriations,
United States Senate.

The Honorable
 Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman,
 Subcommittee on Foreign Operations,
 Committee on Appropriations,
 United States Senate.

The Honorable
 Mitch McConnell,
 Subcommittee on Foreign Operations,
 Committee on Appropriations,
 United States Senate.

The Honorable -Henry Hyde, Chairman,
 Committee on international Relations, House of;. Representatives.

The Honorable
 Tom Lantos,
 Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives.

The Honorable
 C.W. Bill Young, Chairman,
 Committee on Appropriations,
 House of Representatives.

WHA t~J 004

The Honorable...

WHA

6

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

Colombia HR reportDRAFT.doc
 PROGRESS REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

The challenges faced by Colombia are a matter of national security interest to the United States. Our assistance package is crucial to maintaining our cooperative counterdrug efforts and aiding the Colombian government and people to preserve Colombia's democracy and address their other urgent socioeconomic challenges. The package is also important in terms of promoting regional security and stability.

Colombia confronts a drug emergency that directly affects the United States. In spite of aggressive counterdrug efforts, coca cultivation in Colombia increased 140 percent during the period 1995-1999. This massive rate of increase threatens to offset, and is in fact partly in

response to, the dramatic reduction in coca production in Peru and Bolivia. Ninety percent of the U.S. domestic supply of cocaine is grown or processed in, or transported through, Colombia. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that up to 75 percent of the heroin consumed on the East Coast of the United States comes from Colombia. Illegal drugs cost our society 52,000 lives and nearly \$110 billion dollars each year due to health and other social costs, and lost productivity. The drug trade is also fueling the illegal armed groups involved in Colombia's internal conflict, further exacerbating human rights problems.

Funds disbursed from our assistance package are contributing to various human rights and humanitarian programs in Colombia. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has various activities already in place and is beginning to implement numerous programs to strengthen human rights institutions and to increase the protection of human rights defenders. One of these initiatives, which will soon be operational, is a human rights early warning system. This system will mobilize, when there is credible evidence, government forces and civil society in order to prevent massacres, forced displacement and other human rights violations.

USAID programs for strengthening human rights institutions include improving the delivery of human rights services and strengthening the ability of state institutions and civil society organizations to track and monitor human rights cases. Programs for the protection of human rights workers include the improvement and expansion of the security and protection program administered by the Ministry of Interior and the provision of protection equipment. USAID has also, so far, disbursed \$25 million from our supplemental package to five international humanitarian NGOs and international organizations. This funding is for programs that focus on assisting the internally displaced, the promotion of human rights, and the prevention of violence and strengthening of social organizations.

U.S. funding for alternative development programs has also begun to help the Government of Colombia to support voluntary eradication initiatives. On December 2, during a ceremony in a village in southern Colombia's Putumayo Department, 539 farmers agreed to destroy their coca plots in return for government aid to adopt alternative, legal crops. Similar agreements are being pursued with a number of other coca-growing communities.

The bulk of human rights abuses in Colombia continue to be perpetrated by paramilitaries and guerrillas. The Pastrana Administration has acted to ensure that government security force personnel adhere to human rights norms. According to the Center for Investigations and Popular Research (CINEP), during the first nine months of 2000, security force members were responsible for six percent of the extrajudicial killings attributed to either the security

forces or the paramilitaries; CINEP did not include extrajudicial killings attributed to the guerrillas in this tally.

Presidential Directive and Decrees

On August 17, 2000, President Pastrana issued a directive to the Military Commander and the Director of the National Police and the personnel under them. This directive requires the military to abide by the Colombian Constitutional Court decision of 1997 (C-35B) which directs the military judiciary to relinquish to the civilian judiciary the investigation, prosecution, and trial of grave human rights violations ("crímenes de lesa humanidad") and other crimes not directly related to "acts of service." Furthermore, Article 1 of the new Colombian Military Penal Code (Law 522 of 1999) explicitly restricts military jurisdiction to crimes that are committed by public forces in the course of active service and that are related to such service. In addition, the Code clarifies that acts of torture, genocide, and forced disappearance can never be deemed to be acts related to service. The Pastrana directive notes that the new Military Penal Code "raises to the category of Law of the Republic the policies and scope attributed to Article 221 of the Colombian Constitution under judgement No. C-358 of 1997 of the Constitutional Court." The directive goes on to require that the Armed Forces and Police in Colombia implement these norms.

On September 14 the President signed into effect 11 executive decrees which reformed and professionalized the armed forces. These decrees included provisions for disciplinary removal of armed forces members involved in human rights abuses; the suspension of officials under investigation for offenses including abuse of human rights or acts which could constitute support for illegal armed actors including paramilitaries; and, for the first time, discretionary authority for armed forces leaders to remove personnel at any stage in their career.

Based on Executive Decree 1790, Defense Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez announced the dismissal of 388 members of the military forces on October 16, an action unprecedented in the history of the Colombian military.

According to the Ministry of Defense, of the 388 personnel dismissed, 89 were officers and 299 were non-commissioned officers. Among the dismissed were two lieutenant colonels dismissed from the Army; 14 major/lieutenant commanders dismissed from the Army, and one from the Navy; 27 captain/lieutenants dismissed from the Army, two from the Navy, and three from the Air Force; 21 1st lieutenant/lieutenants junior grade dismissed from the Army, one from the Navy, and eight from the Air Force; nine 2nd lieutenant/others dismissed from the Army, and one from the Air Force; and 225 NCOs dismissed from the Army, 47 from the Navy, and 27 from the Air Force.

These dismissals are a major step forward in promoting greater professionalism and accountability within the Colombian Armed Forces. The Government of Colombia, seeking to limit legal actions against it by those dismissed, has not released the specific reasons for each of the dismissals. Therefore, we do not know how many of the dismissals were human rights-related. However, the media has reported publicly, and Government of Colombia officials have confirmed privately, that some of the dismissals were the result of credible allegations of gross human rights violations or of aiding and abetting paramilitaries.

As stated in the Department of State's 1999 Country Report on Human Rights for Colombia, the Government of Colombia has "demonstrated an increased willingness to remove from duty security force officers who failed to respect human rights, or ignored or were complicit in the abuses committed by paramilitary groups." In several important cases, senior-level officers have been suspended, usually by order of civilian authorities, after charges were brought against them. Examples include Colonel Jorge Plazas Acevedo, who was arrested and suspended in April 1999 in connection with the murder of Benjamin Khoudari Brigadier General Jaime Humberto Uscategui, who was suspended in April 1999 in connection with the 1997 paramilitary massacre at Mapiripan, Meta; and Lieutenant Colonel Jesus Maria Clavijo Clavijo, suspended in March 2000 after being arrested on charges of collaboration with paramilitaries and involvement in "social cleansing" killings while a member of the Army's ???? Brigade.

According to the March 2000 Human Rights Report of the Colombian Ministry of Defense, 32 members of the Armed Forces were separated from service between 1998 and 1999 for presumed human rights violations. During that same period, the military justice system also ordered the discharge of 65 police officers for presumed human rights violations. We will continue to work with the Government of Colombia in order to monitor further progress in holding military and police personnel accountable for violations of human rights.

Despite the positive developments described above, there remain credible allegations that individual Colombian military officers continue to collaborate with paramilitaries. Although the Government of Colombia has been explicit in its commitment to treat paramilitary groups as illegal armed actors, and has increased law enforcement and military actions against paramilitaries, credible allegations of collaboration at some local levels continue. The Administration has raised these issues with the Government of Colombia repeatedly and specifically at all levels of our bilateral dialogue and will continue to work with the Government of Colombia to satisfactorily address these concerns.

The executive decrees signed by President Pastrana in September also

created a Penal Military Justice Corps (Cuerpo de Justicia Penal Militar) ("the Corps"), a professional, uniformed military legal corps. Although the Colombian military had previously employed civilian lawyers and had officers who were attorneys, it did not have a separate, uniformed judge advocate corps independent of the chain of command. The new military justice system is independent from the rest of the military structure. The Corps will investigate and prosecute Colombian Armed Forces personnel suspected of misconduct as well as crimes determined to have been committed as an "act of service."

The Colombian Military Penal Justice system is similar, but not identical, to the U.S. Army JAG Corps. The new system will be composed of Magistrates of the Military Court of Appeals, Lower Military Court Judges, Investigating Judges, Prosecutors, and Judge Advocates (Auditor de Guerra) at the General Inspector, Division and Brigade levels. Brigadier General Jairo Pineda has been appointed as the head of Colombia's Executive Directorate of the Military Penal Justice system. Most recently, Brigadier General Pineda served as the Army Chief of Operations in Bogota and Chief of the Strategy Department, Superior War College, in Bogota. In his capacity as head of Colombia's Executive Directorate, BG Pineda will report directly to the Minister of Defense, a civilian.

Since August 2000, Southcom's Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) and the J5 Human Rights Division have assisted the Executive Directorate of Military Penal Justice system. Our support for the Colombian Corps is intended to strengthen accountability within the military in a way that complements, and does not supplant, enhanced civilian judicial jurisdiction for human rights crimes.

SJA and the J5 Human Rights Division provide ongoing assessments of the Human Rights/Law of War training programs in order to improve, fortify, and strengthen these programs, and the Military Penal Justice system itself. Colombian lawyers underwent an orientation visit to the Judge Advocate General's School of the U.S. Army in Charlottesville, VA and legal offices in Washington, DC in October 2000. According to Brigadier General Pineda, the Colombian military intends to start in February 2001 the construction of a school to train members of the new Corps. Additionally, beginning in January 2001 there will be a U.S. Judge Advocate assigned to extended tours at U.S. Embassy Bogota to further assist in the developing and deploying of the Colombian Corps.

So far, two Colombian "JAG" lawyers are deployed to the Counternarcotics Brigade Staff. These lieutenants received training at Fort Benning and Larandia. A U.S. Army Judge Advocate provided operational law and human rights training for the entire Counternarcotics Brigade Staff at Fort Benning and Larandia. According to General Pineda, additional Colombian "JAGs" will be deployed with other units in 2001.

During the Pastrana Administration there has also been a gradual, but steady, improvement in the cooperation between civilian authorities and the Colombian Armed Forces in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment in the civilian courts of military personnel who are credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights. Attorney General Jaime Bernal Cuellar, whose office can impose only administrative sanctions on state agents, has told the U.S. Embassy he has encountered no obstacles from the military when pursuing investigations of military personnel. Documents, witnesses, site investigations, and other information have been readily provided by military sources when requested, according to the Attorney General.

The military high command, under the leadership of Defense Minister Ramirez and General Tapias, has stated repeatedly that it will not tolerate collaboration between military personnel and paramilitary groups. President Pastrana has, through administrative actions or direct intervention, ended the careers of at least four generals and numerous mid-level officers and NCOs widely believed to have been either collaborating with paramilitaries or tacitly permitting them to operate. Additionally, on July 6, 2000 President Pastrana signed into force a law codifying forced disappearance, genocide, and forced displacement as crimes. The reformed Military Penal Code, which took effect on August 12, 2000 reiterates that acts unrelated to service (including torture, genocide and forced disappearance) are crimes that may be tried only in civilian courts.

Civilian judicial authorities are increasingly investigating, and prosecuting, military personnel credibly linked to major crimes, human rights violations or collusion with the paramilitaries. The Prosecutor General and Attorney General often launched investigations parallel to, and sometimes in competition with, each other's or the military's investigations. The human rights unit of the Prosecutor General's Office (Fiscalia) investigated, indicted, or prosecuted 303 security force members during 1999, including at least 12 officers, on a variety of charges including homicide, torture, and sponsorship of paramilitary groups. The Attorney General's Office (Procuraduria) and the public security forces demonstrated a greater willingness during the year to follow up with instructions that those ordered arrested be removed from their duties, denied the right to wear a uniform, or turned over to civilian judicial authorities.

On December 21, 2000 the Attorney General formally charged 17 police and 9 army officials with collusion with paramilitaries in the "social cleansing" murders of 160 people in eastern Antioquia between 1995 and 1998. Additionally, five Colombian generals and 22 other officers are being investigated by the Attorney General's Office for failing to protect residents from paramilitary massacres or allegedly collaborating with paramilitaries. In July 2000 the Attorney General's Office reopened the case against four army generals and one

lieutenant colonel for failing to take appropriate measures to protect the residents of Puerto Alvira from a May 1998 paramilitary attack. One of these officers is Brigadier General Jaime Humberto Uscategui, who was rearrested on July 31, 2000 in connection with the ongoing trial of the alleged perpetrators of the 1997 Mapiripan massacre. An investigation was also opened concerning the former commander of the ???? Brigade, Brigadier General Alberto Bravo Silva, along with other military and public security force officers for failure to act to prevent the August 21-22, 1999 paramilitary massacre in the areas of Tibu and La Gabarra. Moreover, the Attorney General has taken administrative sanctions against members of the military found to have abetted paramilitary activities, including requiring the removal from service of Brigadier General Uscategui.

According to the Executive Director of the Military Justice Office of the Colombian Ministry of Defense, from August 12 to November 30, 2000, there were 27 cases that had been sent to the civilian courts; however, we do not have a breakdown of the nature of these cases. Civilian investigative and court proceedings are notoriously slow in Colombia, and their failure to come to resolution quickly is not unique to cases involving the military.

Since the August 1997 Constitutional Court ruling which more narrowly defined the constitutional provision that crimes by state agents unrelated to "acts of service" must be tried in civilian courts, the military judiciary has turned 864 cases (through August 2000) over to the civilian judiciary for investigation and possible prosecution. Military courts heard 540 cases during that time that involved human rights-related accusations within the context of military service (e.g., accidental shooting resulting in death, abuse of authority, illegal detention). Among the cases transferred to the civilian justice system during 1999 were those of three full colonels - representing the first time that the military judiciary turned over cases concerning high-ranking officers. However, many of the cases included in the above figures did not involve gross violations of human rights.

Civilian authorities, including the Prosecutor General's Office (Fiscalia), have expressed concern over the number of prisoners who escape from confinement while awaiting or after trial. Military holding areas, which often are not intended as prisons or detention centers, are no solution. The military has suggested building military prisons for this purpose, but so far resources are not available.

The Government of Colombia is making concrete progress in ensuring that military personnel credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights are brought to justice in the civilian courts, and that military forces are cooperating with civilian authorities to that end; however, continued work is needed. Such measures should include increased cooperation by the military with civilian authorities

in executing outstanding arrest warrants against military personnel for alleged human rights abuses or collusion with paramilitary activity; more complete sharing of information with civilian authorities; increased efforts to ensure that alleged perpetrators of human rights violations against whom there are arrest warrants do not escape detention; and implementation of effective measures to protect civilian investigators and prosecutors from threats that impede their work.

Actions Against Paramilitaries

The Colombian military, police and law enforcement agencies have also improved their efforts to confront and detain paramilitaries at the same time that continuing guerrilla atrocities have led to an increase in popular support for these illegal paramilitary movements. Arrests, combat operations and intelligence activities against paramilitaries have increased over 1999.

During 2000, military and legal pressures on paramilitaries continued to increase, notably with the November arrest of Jose Efraim Perez, leader of the United Self-Defense Group of Colombia's (AUC) Centauros Bloc and a close associate of AUC leader Carlos Castano. In retaliation, paramilitary forces attacked public security forces in at least one instance, and fought against government forces in several other firefights. For the first time, commanders are required to brief superiors on actions taken against paramilitaries, as well as against guerrillas, on a regular basis.

According to the Ministry of Defense, public security forces including the Prosecutor General's technical police (CTI) captured a total of 556 members of paramilitary groups and killed more than 26 during 1999. The Statistics Center of the Colombian Ministry of Defense provided the following information: From January to October 2000 the military conducted 145 operations against the paramilitaries; capturing 248 and killing or wounding 76. The Ministry of Defense reports that as of October 2000 there were 697 paramilitaries in Colombian prisons. When paramilitaries sought to establish dialogue with the government by kidnapping seven members of Congress, the Government reaffirmed that it would refuse to grant political status to these groups; the members were eventually released.

According to the Ministry of Defense, between January and October 2000 there were 309 arrest warrants, 243 detentions, 517 bonds or other means of assurance, 311 indictments, 33 plea bargains, and 151 investigations against paramilitaries. Among those arrested were Mario James Mejia, charged with leading a February 28 massacre in Barrancabermeja; eight persons associated with the AUC paramilitary group for the 1997 murders of two CINEP human rights workers; and paramilitary leader Reynel Gomez Correa in connection with the 1994 "Trujillo II massacre." Adan Rojas Ospirio and Arnoldo Segundo

Meza, both close associates of Carlos Castano and key figures in the AUC, were captured in February 2000. In June 2000 six members of a paramilitary organization were each sentenced to 40 years in prison for complicity in at least ten homicides, according to press reports. In September 2000, after Carlos Castano confirmed allegations that his AUC movement receives funds from national and international businesses, the Prosecutor General announced that his office had opened investigations into entities with financial links to paramilitaries.

The Fiscalía is taking vigorous action against a number of military personnel for aiding or abetting paramilitaries. Although the Fiscalía is committed to prosecuting military personnel colluding with paramilitaries, it remains burdened by competing demands and scarce resources. Our supplemental aid package will help the Fiscalía deal with these challenges by augmenting and expanding the recently created Human Rights Special Unit, and by providing training for judges and public defenders. The Fiscalía's Human Rights Special Unit is a task force comprised of more than 100 prosecutors, investigators, and technicians responsible for the investigation and prosecution of human rights crimes. Formed in October 1999, this unit has received specialized training in the United States on conducting criminal investigations of cases involving multiple homicides, bombings, and kidnappings.

The Government of Colombia has made noteworthy progress in the strengthening of human rights institutions. USAID is funding a program to create an early warning system. This system will mobilize, when there is credible evidence, government forces and civil society in order to prevent massacres, forced displacement and other human rights violations. It will strengthen the institutions of the state and will ensure greater accountability, as the government will need to respond quickly to evidence of possible future attacks on civilian populations. The project will be directed by the Human Rights Ombudsman's office and coordinated with the Vice President's office, the Ministry of Interior, and the Red de Solidaridad. There will be additional coordination with the Ministry of Defense, the Attorney General, international organizations, and civil groups ?????. USAID will contribute \$2 million and the Colombian Government will contribute \$1 million to launch the early warning system. In February, the Government created (via executive decree) a Coordinating Center for the Struggle against "Self Defense" and other Illegal Armed Groups. To date, however, despite our strong encouragement, this Center has not achieved tangible results and, according to some sources, exists largely on paper.

Despite the progress made, security force actions in the field were not always consistent with repeated statements by President Pastrana and the military high command that they would not tolerate collaboration between military personnel and paramilitary groups. There are

credible reports that individual members of the military continue to abet -- directly or indirectly -- paramilitary activities. Reports of permanent paramilitary bases or roadblocks located near military installations persist in several areas of the country. The Administration is strongly supportive of the efforts by the Government of Colombia to undertake all necessary measures to eliminate lawlessness and impunity within the military and to dedicate to the Fiscalía all necessary resources to permit it to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute members and leaders of the paramilitary groups and members of the Armed Forces who assist them.

The Colombian Government in Plan Colombia has set a goal of eliminating 50 percent of drug crop cultivation within five years (October 2005). This target is in keeping with the much-publicized reductions achieved in Peru and Bolivia. A 50 percent reduction is significant, realistic, and obtainable.

Any plan for total coca and poppy elimination in this time period would require more resources than are contemplated in Plan Colombia. As the implementation of Plan Colombia proceeds, it may be possible for the Government of Colombia to revise its timetable for drug elimination; this is particularly true for opium poppy elimination. The Administration has asked the Government of Colombia to determine a timetable, and an estimate of resources, that would allow it to work toward a strategy of eliminating coca and poppy production.

More immediately, U.S. funding for alternative development programs has begun to help the Government of Colombia to support voluntary eradication initiatives. On December 2, during a ceremony in a village in southern Colombia's Putumayo Department, 539 farmers agreed to destroy their coca plots in return for government aid to adopt alternative, legal crops.

With respect to mycoherbicides, we have made clear that the United States will support a program approved by the Government of Colombia of rigorous, carefully supervised research and testing in Colombia to determine whether mycoherbicides are safe, effective, and superior to chemical eradication methods. Such support would require a broader national security assessment, including consideration of the potential impact on biological weapons proliferation and terrorism, to determine that the use of this particular drug control tool is in our national interest.

The Government of Colombia has made important progress in developing policies and legislation that will serve as an important base for strong implementation measures to improve the human rights situation. We continue to press the Government of Colombia to improve its implementation of programs designed to enhance respect for human rights and to protect human rights advocates and defenders.

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