

**COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS**

**9 JANUARY 2003**

**I BEGAN MY ARMY CAREER IN 1968 AND SO HAVE SEEN MY SHARE OF THE HORROR OF WAR – FROM THE JUNGLES OF VIETNAM TO THE DESERT OF IRAQ AND MOST RECENTLY TO THE JUNGLES OF COLOMBIA, WHERE ONCE AGAIN I AM REMINDED OF THE TRAGEDY, NOT THE GLORY, OF COMBAT. ON A RECENT VISIT TO COLOMBIA I VISITED A HOSPITAL FOR COLOMBIAN MILITARY AMPUTEES. WHAT I SAW BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES. I SAW THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF OVER 400 YOUNG MEN --WITH TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE WOUNDS, WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DEVASTATED BY THE WAR IN COLOMBIA. LIKE ANYONE WHO HAS WITNESSED THE AWFUL REALITY OF WAR, I WAS AT ONCE SADDENED, YET ENCOURAGED AS I SPOKE AND LISTENED TO THESE YOUNG MEN OF UNCOMMON IDEALS, WHO SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR COUNTRY. THE OTHER EMOTION I ALSO FELT WAS GREAT ANGER AS I REFLECTED ON THEIR LOSS, AND EVEN GREATER ANGER FOR THE MAIMING AND KILLING OF INNOCENT WOMEN AND... SO MANY CHILDREN...ANGER FOR A PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM A BRUTAL AND VICIOUS ASSAULT FROM WELL FINANCED NARCOTERRORISTS THAT ARE TRYING TO TEAR THAT COUNTRY APART.**

**THESE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS – WITH THEIR IDEOLOGICALLY APPEALING NAMES -- THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA OR FARC, THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY OR ELN, AND THE UNITED SELF DEFENSE FORCES OR AUC – THESE GROUPS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN NARCOTERRORISTS WHO CONDUCT VIOLENT, INCESSANT ATTACKS THAT UNDERMINE THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF COLOMBIA. THEY ARE INCREDIBLY WELL-FINANCED BY THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EVERY ASPECT OF DRUG CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION, KIDNAPPING AND EXTORTION. MAYBE 40 YEARS AGO THESE ORGANIZATIONS WERE MOTIVATED BY IDEOLOGY. NO MORE. SURE, A FEW OF THE OLD ONES CAN STILL BE SEEN AROUND THE JUNGLES WEARING CHE GUEVARA T-SHIRTS. BUT IDEOLOGY IS NOT WHAT DRIVES THESE GROUPS TODAY. TODAY, THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY MONEY, AND POWER, AND PROTECTING, AND SUSTAINING THEMSELVES THROUGH DRUG TRAFFICKING AND TERROR.**

**THEY HAVE CREATED SO MUCH TURMOIL AND UNCERTAINTY IN COLOMBIA, THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONTROL NOR GOVERN LARGE PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHICH PERMITS THEIR TERROR NETWORK TO FLOURISH.**

**ONE OF THE SOLDIERS I MET AT THE AMPUTEE HOSPITAL**

**CALLED THEM BANDITOS -- BUT THAT IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS FORCE OF EVIL THAT HAS WREAKED HAVOC ON COLOMBIA AND ITS PEOPLE. LAST YEAR OVER 28,000 COLOMBIANS WERE MURDERED – 13 TIMES THE RATE OF THE U.S. MORE THAN 2,900 WERE KIDNAPPED – INCLUDING MANY CHILDREN. MORE THAN 450 COLOMBIANS LOST THEIR LIVES LAST YEAR TO LANDMINES – THE VERY VAST MAJORITY DUE TO THE NARCOTERRORISTS, NOT THE MILITARY.**

**1.5 MILLION COLOMBIANS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES, DISPLACED BY THE WAR. THERE WERE MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN COLOMBIA ALONE LAST YEAR THAN IN ALL OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD COMBINED. VIOLENCE IS SO ENDEMIC THAT A COLOMBIAN COMPANY NOW SPECIALIZES IN BULLETPROOF VESTS FOR CHILDREN. ACADEMICS AND DIPLOMATS CAN ARGUE OVER THE DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES AS ONLY APPLYING TO STATE ORGANIZATIONS,...BUT TO THE DEAD, THE MAIMED, AND THE KIDNAPPED, THESE STATISTICS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.**

**AND ALL THIS IS HAPPENING IN OUR AMERICAS...JUST 3 HOURS FLYING TIME FROM MY COMMAND IN MIAMI! IT IS AFFECTING MANY OF YOU DIRECTLY IN YOUR BUSINESSES, AS THE COLOMBIAN ECONOMY SHRINKS BY \$10 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. IT IS HAPPENING TO THE OLDEST DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA, ONE OF THE TOP SUPPLIERS OF OIL TO THE U.S. AND OUR COUNTRY'S FIFTH**

**LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN LATIN AMERICA.**

**MORE GRAVELY, COLOMBIA'S NARCOTERRORISTS SUPPLY ALMOST ALL OF THE COCAINE AND MOST OF THE HEROIN CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES. DRUGS KILLED MORE THAN 19,000 AMERICANS IN 2001 AND WERE INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER 55,000 DEATHS ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY. BY STATISTICAL DEFINITION, THIS MAKES THESE DRUGS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.**

**WHAT WE HAVE IN COLOMBIA IS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY IN OUR HEMISPHERE, LARGER THAN TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, LOUISIANA, AND ARKANSAS COMBINED, UNDER BRUTAL ATTACK BY THREE WELL ARMED, EXTREMELY VIOLENT NARCOTERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ERODING THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE STATE, WHILE FINANCING THEMSELVES WITH A PRODUCT THAT ANNUALLY KILLS THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS. SHOULD THAT BE IMPORTANT TO US? YOU BET IT SHOULD BE!**

**AND IT DOESN'T STOP THERE. NARCOTERRORISM IS THREATENING THE DEMOCRACY, STABILITY, AND PROSPERITY OF OTHER HEMISPHERIC NATIONS. DRUG TRAFFICKING IS GENERATING VIOLENCE, FOSTERING CRIME, CORRUPTING INSTITUTIONS, FUELING**

**GANGS, AND DAMAGING ALREADY WEAK ECONOMIES AND FRAGILE, NASCENT DEMOCRACIES.**

**AS TRAFFICKERS EXCHANGE DRUGS FOR ARMS AND SERVICES IN THE TRANSIT COUNTRIES, TRANSIT NATIONS BECOME DRUG CONSUMERS AS WELL. BRAZIL IS NOW THE SECOND LARGEST CONSUMER OF COCAINE IN THE WORLD BEHIND THE UNITED STATES. NOW, THERE'S A DUBIOUS DISTINCTION.**

**NARCOTERRORISM ALSO FUELS RADICAL ISLAMIC GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH HAMAS, HIZBALLAH, AL GAMAAT, AND AL QAIDA. THESE GROUPS, OPERATING OUT OF THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF PARAGUAY, ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL, AND OTHER LOCALES, LIKE MARGARITA ISLAND OFF VENEZUELA, GENERATE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS, IF NOT BILLIONS, OF DOLLARS THROUGH DRUG AND ARMS TRAFFICKING WITH NARCOTERRORISTS. SIMPLY PUT, DIRECT DRUG SALES AND MONEY LAUNDERING FUND WORLDWIDE TERRORIST OPERATIONS. THAT IS FACT, NOT SPECULATION.**

**NARCOTERRORISTS OPERATE IN AND OUT OF SOUTHERN PANAMA, NORTHERN ECUADOR, NORTHERN PERU, BOLIVIA, PORTIONS OF VENEZUELA AND THE TRI-BORDER AREA -- THEY ARE INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPINGS IN VENEZUELA, ECUADOR, AND PARAGUAY -- THEY SMUGGLE WEAPONS AND DRUGS IN BRAZIL, SURINAME, GUYANA,**

**MEXICO, AND PERU. THEY USE THE SAME ROUTES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DRUGS, ARMS, ILLEGAL ALIENS, AND OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITES. THERE IS A HUGE AND GROWING MARKET FOR FORGED AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS – NARCOTERRORISTS AND RADICAL ISLAMIC GROUPS ARE FEEDING THIS MARKET.**

**IN ADDITION TO THE TRADITIONAL TRANSIT ROUTES THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, AND THE CARIBBEAN, NORTHERN CHILE HAS EVEN BECOME A SIGNIFICANT ILLEGAL TRANSIT POINT. URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY ARE BECOMING GROWING TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS FOR COCAINE PRODUCED IN COLOMBIA, BOLIVIA, AND PERU.**

**THE PROBLEMS IN COLOMBIA, THEREFORE, ARE NOT JUST COLOMBIA’S PROBLEMS. THEY ARE VENEZUELA’S PROBLEMS. THEY ARE BRAZIL’S, ECUADOR’S, CHILE’S, HONDURAS’, AND HAITI’S PROBLEMS. THEY ARE OUR PROBLEMS.**

**SO YOU’RE SAYING, OK GENERAL, YOU’RE TELLING ME ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS WITH NARCOTERRORISTS DESTABILIZING THE REGION -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT.**

**AND THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION -- LET ME START OFF WITH COLOMBIA. I HAVE BEEN IN COMMAND JUST OVER FOUR MONTHS AND HAVE ALREADY TRAVELED TO COLOMBIA 5 TIMES. I TRAVEL THERE AGAIN ON MONDAY.**

**I HAVE MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH PRESIDENT URIBE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAMIREZ, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES, GENERAL MORA. I AM IMPRESSED BY THESE STRONG AND PRINCIPLED LEADERS. PRESIDENT URIBE IS COMMITTED TO DEFEATING THE FORCES RIPPING HIS COUNTRY APART. HE HAS THE DETERMINATION AND VISION TO GET THE JOB DONE. HE ALSO KNOWS THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT MUST DO MUCH MORE TO SUCCEED. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE IS NO SINGLE MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS OF GOVERNANCE IN COLOMBIA. HIS ACTIONS THUS FAR INDICATE THAT HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.**

**HIS GOAL IS NOT TO REDUCE COCA AND POPPY PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA – IT IS TO ELIMINATE IT – AND HE HAS COMMITTED COLOMBIA TO SPRAY AND RESPRAY UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE COCA AND POPPY. THAT'S A TALL ORDER AND MAYBE NOT DOABLE, BUT HE HAS SET THAT BENCH MARK AND IS PUSHING HIS GOVERNMENT TOWARD THAT GOAL. PRESIDENT URIBE HAS TAKEN INITIATIVES TO DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE; LEVIED A**

**WAR TAX ON THE WEALTHIEST SEGMENT OF COLOMBIAN SOCIETY;  
IMPLEMENTED NO-NONSENSE ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES AND IS  
TAKING THE FIGHT TO NARCOTERRORISTS IN PARTS OF COLOMBIA  
WHERE THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY FREE TO PLAN, TRAIN, AND  
TERRORIZE THE POPULACE.**

**IN FIVE MONTHS, PRESIDENT URIBE HAS INSTILLED A NEW  
SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN COLOMBIANS AS WELL AS DOMESTIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN  
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA HAS RAISED OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN  
BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUANCES SINCE  
AUGUST. THE STOCK MARKET INCREASED ITS VALUE BY 50% IN 2002.  
WHILE STILL STAGNANT, THE ECONOMY HAS GROWN GREATER THAN  
EXPECTED. HE MANAGED TO GET VIRTUALLY ALL OF HIS AMBITIOUS  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA THROUGH CONGRESS TO RESTRUCTURE THE  
STATE.**

**I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT BEFORE AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> 2002 –  
THE INAUGURATION DATE OF PRESIDENT URIBE -- WE WERE IN  
COLOMBIA SUPPORTING A COLOMBIAN POLICY HEAVILY  
INFLUENCED BY THE U.S. – TODAY WE ARE THERE SUPPORTING A  
PREDOMINATELY COLOMBIAN POLICY. THAT...IS A MAJOR CHANGE  
FOR THE BETTER BECAUSE THE FACT IS THAT THE WAR IN COLOMBIA**



**CAN ONLY BE WON AND FOUGHT BY COLOMBIANS – BUT, THEY NEED AND DESERVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY’S HELP.**

**SOUTHCOM SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, MARINES, AND COASTGUARDSMEN ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGING IN NON-COMBAT ROLES WITH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY FORCES. WE ARE ASSISTING THEM IN MAKING THE U.S. - TRAINED AND EQUIPPED COUNTER NARCOTICS BRIGADE LIGHTER AND MORE OPERATIONALLY FLEXIBLE IN ORDER TO GO AFTER COUNTERDRUG AND NARCOTERRORIST TARGETS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE ARE TRAINING UNITS IN NORTHEAST COLOMBIA TO PROTECT THEIR OIL PIPELINE -- SO VITAL TO A HEALTHY ECONOMY, BUT, WHICH IS CONSTANTLY UNDER ATTACK BY THE FARC AND ELN. WE ARE TRAINING COLOMBIAN RIVERINE UNITS TO INTERDICT THE TREMENDOUS VOLUME OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC ALONG THE WATERWAYS. WE ARE EXPANDING OUR STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANCE TO SELECTED COLOMBIAN MILITARY STAFFS AND UNITS. WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY WORKING WITH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY TO BETTER ALLOCATE AND USE THEIR RESOURCES BY PLANNING AND CONDUCTING MORE JOINT OPERATIONS.**

**OUR COMBINED EFFORTS IN ENSURING THEY CONDUCT**

**THEMSELVES AND THEIR OPERATIONS WITH AN EYE TOWARD RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE PAID GREAT DIVIDENDS. THE U.S. TRAINED COUNTERNARCOTICS BRIGADE HAS HAD ZERO ALLEGATIONS LEVIED AGAINST IT FOR TWO YEARS. THIS IS CRITICAL IN BOTH ANSWERING COLOMBIA CRITICS AND IN GAINING THE SUPPORT OF THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE.**

**SO, WE ARE SEEING PROGRESS – THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS A CAPABLE, PROFESSIONAL FORCE. FOR EXAMPLE, A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY, ACTING ON A CELL PHONE TIP FROM AN INFORMANT, RAPIDLY ASSEMBLED 3 PLATOONS SUPPORTED BY BOTH LIFT AND ATTACK HELICOPTERS TO ASSAULT AND KILL A FARC FRONT COMMANDER AND HIS FORCES. THE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK USED IN IDENTIFYING THE TARGET, THE ABILITY OF THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY TO SURPRISE THE ENEMY, COMBINED WITH THE RAPID COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE GROUND AND AIR PLATFORMS, WERE THE KEYS TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS COMPLEX MISSION. THEY DID IT ALL, FROM PHONE TIP TO MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT IN LESS THAN SIX HOURS. I WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF ANY AMERICAN INFANTRY COMPANY THAT PULLED IT OFF. IS THIS EVERY UNIT EVERYDAY? NO. BUT THEY DO GET BETTER EVERYDAY.**

**BUT WE CAN'T JUST FOCUS ON COLOMBIA. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT WE MAY WIN THE BATTLE IN COLOMBIA BUT LOSE THE WAR IN THE REST OF THE REGION. THE NARCOTERRORISTS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING THEIR OPERATIONS, TACTICS, AND LOCATIONS IN REACTION TO OUR COMBINED EFFORTS. IF WE ARE NOT AS FLEXIBLE, IF WE ARE NOT AS COMPREHENSIVE, OR AS QUICK TO ANTICIPATE AND COUNTER THESE ADJUSTMENTS, WE MAY NOT BE SOLVING THE PROBLEM BUT SIMPLY SHIFTING OR SPREADING IT TO EVEN MORE VULNERABLE POINTS IN THE REGION.**

**FORTUNATELY, THERE IS A GROWING, THOUGH SOMETIMES RELUCTANT REALIZATION THAT THIS INSIDIOUS AND PERVASIVE THREAT IS NO LONGER SIMPLY COLOMBIA'S PROBLEM. LEADERS ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER IN WAYS HITHERTO UNTHOUGHT. IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PLENARY SESSION AT THE DEFENSE MINISTERIALS OF THE AMERICAS IN CHILE IN DECEMBER, CHILEAN PRESIDENT LAGOS ADDRESSED THE NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING DRUGS AND TERRORISM.**

**I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING AND ENCOURAGING THE REGION'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO DEVELOP REGIONAL AND**

**COMPLEMENTARY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM THAT EMANATES FROM, BUT IS NOT RESTRICTED TO COLOMBIA.**

**I HAVE SPOKEN TO THESE LEADERS ABOUT READDRESSING THE ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES TO ENSURE THEY FOCUS ON RELEVANT 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY THREATS, NOT THOSE OF THE PAST.**

**THIS WILL REQUIRE THAT THEIR ARMED FORCES BEGIN SUPPORTING AND COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN COMBATING DRUGS AND OTHER TRANSNATIONAL THREATS. MANY LATIN AMERICAN ARMED FORCES ARE RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE IN COMBATING DRUGS FOR FEAR THEIR ORGANIZATIONS WILL BECOME TAINTED WITH THE THOROUGHLY CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF NARCOTRAFFICKING -- JUST AS WE IN THE U.S. MILITARY FEARED FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS 10 TO 15 YEARS AGO. BUT ONLY MILITARY FORCES, HAVE THE ORGANIZATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, CAPABILITIES, AND PERSONNEL TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH SOPHISTICATED NARCOTERRORIST GROUPS THAT INCREASINGLY VIOLATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND SEEK TO DESTABILIZE ENTIRE COUNTRIES.**

**IN CHILE, ONLY THE MILITARY HAS THE ASSETS TO PROTECT CHILEAN BORDERS AND LAND IN NORTHERN CHILE FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING. IN PARAGUAY, ONLY THE MILITARY CAN COUNTERACT THE CONTINUOUS VIOLATIONS OF PARAGUAYAN AIRSPACE AS DRUGS ENTER AND EXIT THE COUNTRY. IN BRAZIL, ONLY THE MILITARY CAN PREVENT THE COUNTRY'S RIVERS FROM BECOMING HIGHWAYS FOR PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AND GO FAST BOATS.**

**NOW, I HAVE NOT SUGGESTED TO THESE REGIONAL LEADERS TO PLACE TROOPS IN COLOMBIA. WE DON'T WANT THAT. THE COLOMBIANS DON'T WANT THAT. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IMPROVING AND ASSISTING NEIGHBORING NATIONS' CAPABILITIES, COORDINATION, AND COOPERATION TO PROTECT THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND BORDERS, TO KEEP DRUGS FROM EXITING COLOMBIA AND TO KEEP ARMS, PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AND OTHER CONTRABAND FROM ENTERING COLOMBIA.**

**SO OUR CHALLENGE TODAY, IS NOT ONLY TO FIGHT DRUGS AND SAVE DEMOCRACY IN COLOMBIA, BUT ALSO TO PREVENT THE CONTINUING AND INCREASINGLY CORROSIVE SPREAD OF NARCOTERRORISM AND ITS CONNECTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS, ARMS, DRUGS, AND OTHER INSIDIOUS THREATS THROUGHOUT THE REGION. IT IS NO MEAN OR SIMPLE TASK.**

**THE IMAGES OF THOSE COLOMBIAN AMPUTEES I SPOKE OF EARLIER WILL STAY WITH ME FOREVER, JUST AS SIMILAR IMAGES FROM MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES REMAIN WITH ME YET TODAY. FOR THEM – FOR AMERICANS, NORTH AND SOUTH – I AM COMMITTED TO ASSISTING COLOMBIANS IN THEIR FIGHT TO END THE CARNAGE. I AM COMMITTED TO ASSISTING THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUR HEMISPHERE TO HALT THE RUTHLESS SPREAD OF NARCOTERRORISM THAT IS DESTABILIZING OUR AMERICAS. I AM COMMITTED TO PREVENTING NARCOTERRORISTS FROM DELIVERING DRUGS THAT ARE KILLING AMERICANS. I AM COMMITTED TO PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND BY COUNTERACTING THE ISLAMIC RADICAL GROUPS OPERATING FREELY IN THE HEMISPHERE.**

**I AM COMMITTED BECAUSE THIS IS MY NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS PROBLEM CANNOT BE WISHED AWAY, IT IS NOT PLAYING OUT IN SOME OUT OF THE WAY, ALIEN LAND – IT IS OUR HEMISPHERE AND IT AFFECTS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IN A DIRECT WAY, EVERYDAY. MAKE NO MISTAKE, COLOMBIA’S HEARTACHE IS OUR HEARTACHE; COLOMBIA’S NIGHTMARE IS OUR NIGHTMARE – AND COLOMBIA’S TRIUMPH WILL BE OUR TRIUMPH TOO.**

**THANK-YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.  
GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.**