

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CCO-00	COME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00
	NOTE-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00	TRSE-00	VO-00	BBG-00
	ECA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/000W				

-----62F9E3 182050Z /38

R 161507Z SEP 04
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7504
 INFO USMISSION GENEVA
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC

~~RELEASED IN PART~~
~~B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BOGOTA 009364

GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO JEFF DE LAURENTIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/16/2014
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, SNAR, KJUS, CVIS, CO
 SUBJECT: U/S GROSSMAN'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT URIBE AND
 VP SANTOS

REF: A. BOGOTA 7901
 B. BOGOTA 8193
 C. BOGOTA 9192
 D. BOGOTA 7831

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Milton K. Drucker for reasons
 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. Summary. On September 9, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman had separate meetings with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and Vice-President Francisco Santos in Cartagena. Grossman thanked Uribe and Santos for their efforts to secure the safe release of the three American hostages held by the FARC. He also congratulated them on progress on human rights cases and called for much more.

Grossman said he would not be able to make immediate changes on U.S. business visa policies or the travel advisory for Colombia. Both Uribe and Santos asked for additional funding for demobilization and said the FARC is showing signs of weakness. The peace process with the AUC remains complicated, but there has been some progress toward possible

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 16 SEP 2019
 APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
 REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 OCT 2005 200502737

UNCLASSIFIED 2007 200502737

talks with the ELN. Santos said the fall of the U.S. dollar was affecting export industries, while Uribe expressed concern that the tourism industry in Cartagena was suffering because of the U.S. travel warning.

B1

End Summary.

Human Rights

2. (S) Grossman congratulated Uribe and Santos on the administration's many human rights progress, notably arrests in the Arauca union murders case (refs A and B), the effort to move the Mapiripan case to Bogota, and the decision to hold high-level meetings with NGOs. Grossman stressed the need for even more progress on human rights, highlighting the importance of eliminating impunity for military leaders guilty of human rights violations or collusion with paramilitaries.

He also highlighted U.S. concerns over the prosecution of Lieutenant Colonel Orozco in the Mapiripan case, providing Uribe with a chronology of events to explain the USG's position.

B1

4. (S)

Grossman stressed the important role that NGOs can play and supported Uribe's invitation to bring more NGOs to Colombia. Grossman congratulated Uribe on the meeting between the Military High Command and the NGO community on August 5, and on Uribe's meeting with Amnesty International (ref D). Both were credited in the public eye as successes in improving dialogue on human rights.

B1

Humanitarian Exchange with the FARC

5. (S) U/S Grossman thanked Uribe for his efforts to secure the safe release of the three U.S. hostages being held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

B1

Demobilization and Peace Processes

8. Santos said incipient peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN) are going more smoothly. The GOC sent a letter to the ELN in June regarding terms for a peace settlement. (Note: The ELN responded to the GOC in writing on September 6 (septel). End note).

9. Uribe said the GOC needs the USG's help to reintegrate former fighters from illegal armed groups. Roughly 6,000 members of the FARC, ELN, and AUC have voluntarily demobilized and need to be reintegrated into Colombian

UNCLASSIFIED

society. Grossman assured Uribe that demobilization is a high priority for the USG, that we have committed USD 275,000 towards demobilization, and plan to add another USD 300,000.

~~B1~~

Free Trade Agreement

10. (S) Grossman told Uribe the U.S. supports efforts to attract U.S. investors to Colombia, including events such as promotions in New York City on September 29 and Miami on September 30.

B1

B1

11. (S) Uribe said he believes the biggest obstacle to implementing the FTA will be agreement on agricultural exports. Santos said the fall in the value of the dollar against the peso was putting pressure on agricultural exporters in the coffee, banana, cotton, and finished textile export sectors, which have all laid off workers because of decreases in production. Otherwise, said Santos, the Colombian economy is doing well. He said the growing deficit in the pension system is the only major fiscal policy issue at the moment.

~~B1~~

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

Security in Cartagena and the USG Travel Warning

14. (S)

B1

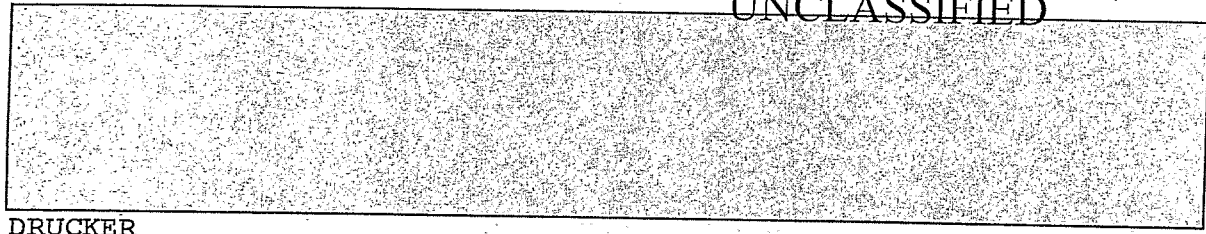
Uribe said that the population of Cartagena has swollen from 500,000 in 1990 to almost 1 million people today, mostly reflecting internally displaced persons (IDPs). Unemployment is high, and Uribe would like to attract more international visitors to Cartagena and stimulate tourism.

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

BI



DRUCKER

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED