

Statement Announcing an Upcoming Visit and Further Assistance to Colombia

August 4, 2000

I am pleased to announce I will travel on August 30 to Colombia to meet with President Andres Pastrana and to personally underscore America's support for Colombia's efforts to seek peace, fight illicit drugs, build its economy, and deepen democracy. I am delighted that Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senator Joe Biden, two longtime champions of peace and democracy in Colombia, will join me on the trip.

Colombia's success is profoundly in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, democratic, and economically prosperous Colombia will help to promote democracy and stability throughout the hemisphere.

I have also signed a Presidential decision directive ordering, as a matter of national priority, an intensified effort to aid the Colombian Government in implementing Plan Colombia—President Pastrana's bold plan to build a better future for his country.

The Presidential decision directive complements and supports the \$1.3 billion assistance package that I requested from Congress, and that Democrats and Republicans passed in a bipartisan spirit last month. The cornerstone of our Colombia initiative, this supplemental includes a tenfold increase in U.S. funds to promote good government, judicial reform, human rights protection, and economic development in Colombia. It will help Colombia strengthen its democracy while helping the Government staunch the flow of drugs to our shores.

This directive, along with the sharp increase in funding from Congress, will intensify our efforts to help the Colombian Government implement its comprehensive national strategy. It is the right way to advance America's interests in the region, and I am proud of the bipartisan effort that has made it possible.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 29

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton participated in a staff picnic on the South Lawn at the White House. Later, they traveled to New York City, arriving in the afternoon.

Later, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, New York.

July 30

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 31

In the morning, the President traveled to Tampa, FL. In the afternoon, he visited the National Football League Tampa Bay Buccaneers training camp facility.

In the evening, the President traveled to Coral Gables, FL.

August 1

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to appoint Craig J. Mundie as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint G. William Ruhl as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

August 2

In the morning, the President was interviewed by telephone by former Senator John Danforth, the Justice Department-appointed Waco Special Counsel, concerning the investigation into events surrounding the 1993 incident in Waco, TX.