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**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on United
States Individuals Involved in the
Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia**

February 20, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the “Act”), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that provides “the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia.”

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of January 13, 2003, the end of this reporting period, there were 208 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 279 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during November and December 2002, and January 2003, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**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.

February 15

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 16

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

February 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia concerning the President’s wishes for a successful conclusion to the Hajj pilgrimage, peace efforts in the Middle East, the war on terror, and the situation in Iraq.

The President then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later in the morning, he met with President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia in the Oval Office.

February 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

February 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar concerning the war on terror, the situation in Iraq, and the President’s support for political and economic reforms in Qatar. He also had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia concerning the war on terror, efforts to ensure the safety of Americans in Indonesia, and the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with journalists from the Telemundo television network.

The White House announced that the President will host President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for an informal dinner and working sessions on February 21–22.

February 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Marietta, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with Freedom Corps volunteer Robert Langley. He then traveled to Kennesaw, GA, where, at Carl Harrison High School, he met with small-business owners and employees to discuss jobs and economic growth.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to Washington, DC, on February 25 to discuss the situation in Iraq and other issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne Rader to be a member of the National Council on Disability.

February 21

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait concerning the situation in Iraq and the President's congratulations on the conclusion of the Hajj.

Later in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan concerning the situations in Cyprus and Iraq.

In the evening, the President welcomed President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to the Bush Ranch. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with President Aznar and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Heydar

Aliyev of Azerbaijan at the White House on February 26.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President of the Government of Spain Jose Maria Aznar

Released February 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria To Visit Washington

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California and for U.S. Tax Court Judge