

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

UNCLASSIFIED

WHA/AND:TSTEERS-GONZALEZ  
 08/24/2009 202-647-4173  
 S:THE SECRETARY

WHA/AND:KWHITAKER WHA/BSC:MDRUCKER WHA/CAR:VDEPIRRO  
 WHA/PPC:JBISCHOFF WHA/PA:SMANGIARACINA WHA/OAS:LANSELEM  
 PM:TCOUNTRYMAN PM/SNA:CCONNELL PM/RSAT:SWOLF OSD:   
 D(S):LCUE(PROVISIONAL) S/P:PHARRELL P:PAGUILERA +

B6

IMMEDIATE ASUNCION, IMMEDIATE BRASILIA, IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES,  
 IMMEDIATE CARACAS, IMMEDIATE GEORGETOWN +  
 IMMEDIATE WHADP, IMMEDIATE BOGOTA

TAGS: PREL, MARR, CO, OPDC

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE/LETTER PRIOR TO AUGUST 28 UNASUR SUMMIT

REF: A. STATE 86734  
 B. STATE 82581

1. (SBU) This is an action request, see paras 4 and 5.
2. (SBU) On August 14, the USG and Colombian government provisionally agreed ad referendum to the text of a bilateral Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) (septel). We expect the final agreement may be signed in Bogota in about a month, following a final review by both sides. As noted in reftels, the DCA would permit the United States access to several Colombian military bases and facilitate effective bilateral cooperation on security matters in Colombia. It would not/not authorize establishment of any U.S. bases or ports, nor would it result in an overall increase in the number of U.S. military personnel or U.S.-citizen civilian contractors in Colombia.
3. (SBU) On August 18, the Secretary and Colombian FM Jaime Bermudez met in Washington to discuss the DCA, including the importance of coordinating our public affairs and diplomatic strategies (septel to follow). There is some concern that the upcoming Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) summit would become a regional referendum on the DCA. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe will attend the summit provided that a full range of regional security matters can be discussed, not just the DCA. In this context, we are reaching out to selected UNASUR members to ask that they raise other regional security issues beyond the DCA.
4. (SBU) Action requested for Santiago, Asuncion, and Lima: that you find an opportunity prior to the August 28

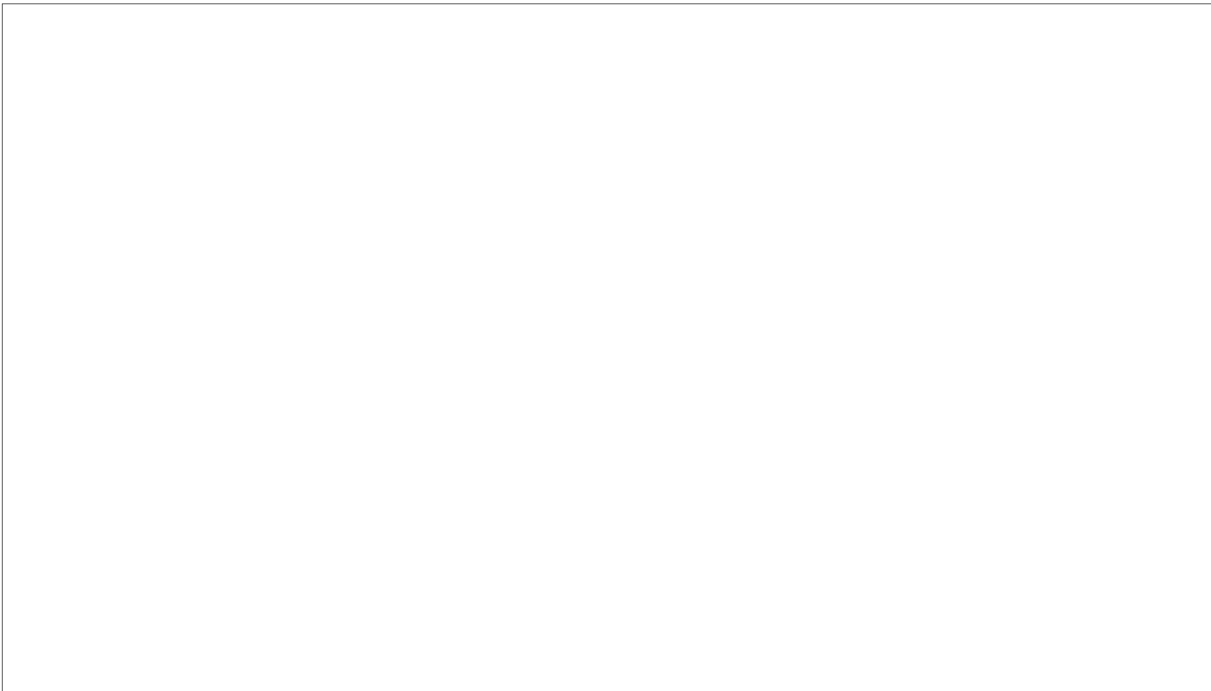
summit to raise the importance of discussing the full range of regional security topics during the summit, and not merely the DCA, with appropriate high levels of host government.

5. (SBU) Action requested for all: that Ambassadors to UNASUR member states deliver the attached letter from the Secretary to host governments in advance of the August 28 summit.

6. (SBU) Begin text:

Dear Mr./Madam Minister:

I wanted to take a moment to write to you and your colleagues about the upcoming summit of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), scheduled for August 28 in Bariloche. UNASUR provides an important forum to address the issues and challenges that affect the region. The United States supports the formation and effective functioning of regional groups such as UNASUR. They promote stability, cohesion, and leadership on key issues, and ensure the best possible communication between nations.



We are committed to being as forthcoming as possible in addressing concerns about this bilateral agreement with nations in the region, and we have endeavored to do so in recent weeks through a variety of mechanisms. As concerns or questions arise, I hope that you will feel free to reach out to us to seek clarification.

The UNASUR summit provides a unique opportunity for the

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organization to address a range of security issues that affect the hemisphere, and I salute your leadership for deciding to discuss these matters. The security challenges affecting our hemisphere, and your nations in particular, are pressing and grave. Our firm belief is that a collective and collaborative approach to these matters is essential. It is our commitment to work with UNASUR nations to help address these concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

END TEXT.