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March 20, 2002 7:12 AM

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TO: Gen. Myers

CC: Paul Wolfowitz

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Colombia Policy

Colombia

I don't know what is going to happen with respect to U.S.-Colombia policy. It is clear there are different views in both the Congress and in the Executive Branch, which is not surprising. It poses some tough issues.

I wonder if it might make sense for SOUTHCOM and SOCOM to be tasked with establishing a joint working group to think through what we might do in Colombia if we are asked. It seems to me we would have to decide what victory would be, and then think through a plan to achieve what we decide to characterize as victory.

The group might be in contact with folks at CIA, DEA, Treasury and State, and also probably coordinate with Wayne Downing at NSC.

There is a lot of history in defeating insurgencies—in the Philippines from 1898-1902, in Nicaragua with the Marines in the 1920s, during the Greek civil war in the 1940s, in Malaysia in the 1950s and even in some pacification efforts in South Vietnam that worked during the 1960s and 1970s.

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Certainly, if we end up doing something, it would fit into the nation-building category, which the administration has not favored. On the other hand, it could use the principles of entrepreneurial nation-building that Secretary O'Neill and others are beginning to develop.

The working group might want to talk to DARPA to see what programs are being developed for surveillance, intelligence, etc. that might be useful. They might also want to talk to Cebrowski on network-centric warfare as applied to jungles, urban areas and insurgencies.

I suspect this should be a very small cell that would report back to us in 90 days.

My view is that Colombia is a hard case, but, nonetheless, I think we ought to be seeing what, if anything, might be done.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks.

DWR:m  
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Please respond by 03/29/02

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