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**Item-in-KAA: EOSG 2001 Executive Office of the Secretary General**

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Primary Contact

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Assignee In Container 'S-0039-0001-054 (Marvin Cordova)' since 21/11/2006 at 10:50 /

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Notes

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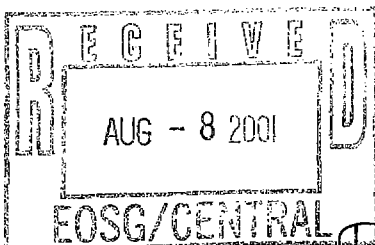
EOSG

Note to the Secretary-General

Visit to Colombia by senior UN official

1. I met with Mr. Egeland just after his meeting with you earlier this week. He had forgotten to raise one issue, which he asked me to bring to your attention.
2. He stated that the situation in Colombia was a "time bomb" and that it would be a good idea if a senior UN official traveled there to form an impression. He agreed that it was not suitable for you to visit Colombia at this time, but suggested that Mr. Prendergast or I go. I proposed the Deputy Secretary-General as another possibility.
3. He felt that the best time for such a visit would be from mid-October to mid-November, which is when the demilitarized zone is scheduled to be renewed. He explained that there would be a great deal of pressure on President Pastrana not to renew the zone and it was possible that he would not be able to do so, because of the weak position he is in at present. However, President Pastrana recognizes that this would destroy his only channel with the FARC and effectively end the peace process. Mr. Egeland believes, therefore, that President Pastrana will renew the zone until August 2001, when the next President takes office. (The two rounds of the elections are scheduled for May and June 2002, and the zone is certain to become a campaign issue).
4. Your guidance is requested on Mr. Egeland's proposal.

Thank you.



*[Signature]*  
 S. Iqbal Riza  
 25 July 2001  
 26

*Please discuss with KP and revert - I am in principle agreeable.*

*[Signature]* 27/7

*Discussed with KP.*

*[Signature]* 7/8.

21-14442