



MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MST/3/1/5/4

5 March 2004

PS/SofS

Copy to:

PS/Min(DP)  
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DESO-CE  
DCDS(C)  
PS/Policy Director  
DG Op Pol

DGCC  
Hd of Sec(HSF)  
PDR(S)

NOTE OF OFFICE CALL BY GENERAL OSPINA (CHOD COLOMBIA) ON MIN(AF) 26  
FEBRUARY 2004

540

General Ospina made an office call on Min(AF) on 26 February. He was accompanied by DA Bogota and [REDACTED]. Min(AF) welcomed Ospina, commenting that the visit showed the UK's commitment to Colombia. Ospina was grateful for the assistance the UK was providing to Colombia, especially the DA [REDACTED] 526

2. Min(AF) explained the importance of human rights in UK politics. The Government was under intense scrutiny on this point and NGOs were feeding parliamentary and media opinion. Ospina understood the British position and the sensitivities over human rights issues. He commented that a commitment to help somebody demonstrated a readiness to pay a political price. He emphasised the popularity in Colombia of the Armed Forces as an institution and emphasised their commitment to democracy and to acting under democratic control. Recent opinion polls had shown strong popular support for the Armed Forces. Past governments had lacked political will. Min(AF), [REDACTED] 527

[REDACTED] said that it was the politicians who took the pressure when the military overstepped the line and that it was therefore right to hold the Armed Forces to account. He suggested that in the case of Colombia, concerns might be due in part to problems of perception and that convincing NGOs and the media was key. He emphasised that it was not only of Colombia that such questions were asked. Ospina acknowledged that the Colombian Armed Forces did have difficulties. Some members had links with smugglers or paramilitaries; but robust action was taken to deal with these individuals. Over 300 had

[REDACTED]

been dismissed for this, 24 in the last week. In addition, significant progress had been made in educating people in human rights and international law. The ICRC and other NGOs monitored the activity of the Armed Forces, the price of democracy. Min(AF) emphasised the importance internationally for Colombia to have independent audit on human rights issues.

3. Min(AF) moved the discussion on to counter narcotics issues, noting recent success in coca crop destruction and extending the Army's control of the territory. Ospina said that thousands of acres of coca crop had been sprayed and that they had seized about 100 tons of the 400 ton annual production. Coca cultivation was based on area control. The Army was assisting the Police in this. Progress in reducing cultivation had been made recently but reductions in coca supply would lag due to warehousing. Estimated we would see a reduction in supply within the year. There was a scheme to compensate farmers for the loss of coca revenue. At Putumayo, there were some 15,000 families in the programme. Min(AF) asked about the relationship between the Police and Armed Forces. Ospina said that this relationship worked well from the top where Ospina had good relations with Gen Castro, Head of the Police, to the bottom where the Army interoperated with the Police, each in their defined roles.

4. Min(AF) emphasised the importance of the DA, who said that he was afforded every facility to visit throughout Colombia, even to the most difficult areas. [REDACTED] 526

5. The discussion turned to the Colombian requirement for tactical aircraft. Ospina said that they were interested in three options [REDACTED] 527  
[REDACTED] They were examining the Brazilian Tucano and the British Hawk. Min(AF) noted that there was always scrutiny on such issues. [REDACTED] 527

6. Finally, Min(AF) indicated that he hoped to visit Colombia later in the year.

[REDACTED] 540  
Lt Col  
[REDACTED]

CHOTs: MIN(AF)-REGISTRY  
GROUP MAIL

FA

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S40

S40

To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Colombia: Visit of Ospina

Dea [redacted] S40

This is to confirm our conversation the other evening about the above. Bill Rammell is at a conference out of London on the afternoon Ospina is in town and will not be able to see him.

S40

As I said we will be happy to provide lines for any briefing for your Minister. [redacted] is going to be away at the time so will need to let you have them before he goes. I suggest you get in touch with him soon to discuss what is needed. Our CV on him is Restricted, so will fax that to you.

I also mentioned that Ospina is a controversial issue in the NGO community. I attach Amnesty International's views which our Research Analyst provided.



Bogota have advised that the only accusation of which they are aware dates back to the early 90s, when Ospina was Commander of the 4th Brigade in Medellin. Some peasants were killed, and the local Army unit was accused not of collusion with the paras, but of "omission of duty". However, Ospina's only involvement was that he was at the time the overall Commander, and Bogota understand that he had no direct involvement in the affair. Nothing was therefore ever pinned to him.

S27

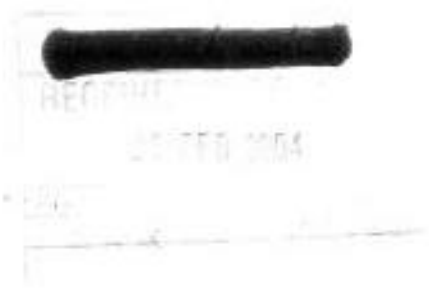
[redacted] He was quoted in the press (upon taking up his new job as Commanding General of the Armed Forces) as saying that paramilitaries are terrorists the same as the FARC, and that they will be annihilated by the Army whenever the Army gets the chance.

[redacted]

S35

[redacted]  
6/2/04

[redacted]  
Brazil/Andean Section  
Latin America Department  
WH 2.323  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
[redacted]



[REDACTED] 540

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 15:12 540  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] LPR on Ospina

[REDACTED] 540

540

Have spoken to [REDACTED] who is OK with Ospina calling on Rammell as long as Ospina is. You will wish to check this before I submit to Rammell's Office (which is unlikely before the end of the week). You should approach this in the vein that we believe a call would be desirable and will seek one, rather than give the impression that a call has been arranged.

540

I will liaise with [REDACTED] about timing on 3 March.

Rammell's Office directs us to the FCO website for his CV. You will find it under Ministers in the Achieving our Objectives section.

[REDACTED] 540

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 14:56  
To: [REDACTED] 540  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] LPR on Ospina

Dear [REDACTED] 540

540

again, many thanks. I have not managed to speak with [REDACTED] but I have spoken with CDS's outer office and have been informed that he will be away at that time. The hope is that we can get in to see VCDS on the 3rd. In other words get Min AF, VCDS and Mr Rammell all on the one day. Can you let me have a CV of Mr Rammell for Gen Ospina's Brief?

cheers,

[REDACTED] 540

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 05:30  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] LPR on Ospina

Dear [REDACTED] 540

Thanks to you and [REDACTED] for this info. This will now enable me to submit a request to Mr Rammell's Office.

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HMA did indeed seek our views on such a call. Initially, with MOD's agreement, it was our view that he need not call on the FCO. HMA then discussed with [REDACTED] when they met in New York and it was decided we would pursue a call on Mr Rammell. I confirmed this to HMA requesting the info now received before I could take things forward. I now need to advise MOD that we are doing so. You may wish to discuss this further with HMA. FCO are not involved in any other aspects of his visit.

Rammell is free on 3 March apart from PM Question Time (noon - 1pm approx). I need to get a call pencilled in his diary pretty soon, once I have spoken to MOD on coordination. Please let me know immediately if on your part you have any problems with pencilling in a time.

[REDACTED] 540

14/1/04

[REDACTED] 540  
Brazil/Andean Section  
Latin America Department

[REDACTED]  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 January 2004 21:47 540  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] LPR on Ospina

Dear [REDACTED]

Gen Ospina will be visiting the UK as a guest of the Commandant of the Joint Services Command & Staff College. He will arrive on Wed 25 Feb, attend a Dinner Night in the College ( probably with CGS) , give his lecture on Thu 26 Feb and thereafter the programme is still yet to be confirmed. He is booked to see Min AF on Wed 3 Mar at 14.00 hr and we are working on getting him to pay an office call on CDS, hopefully on the same day. I hope to get him up to see HAWK with Bae Systems and / or Army School of Ammunition on Fri 27 Feb or Mon 1 Mar. [REDACTED] and is 540  
scheduled to depart on Thu 4 Mar. I have no idea as to what he might wish to do in London, viz visiting his embassy etc. However, I hope for the two of us to have dinner with [REDACTED] at some stage.

As for an office call on Mr Rammell, this is the first I have heard of it. I know that HMA emailed the FCO to see if it was felt that a visit would be appropriate, but I have heard nothing in return. If he is to visit it would be better to work it around this visit to Min AF on Wed 3 Mar. Please do not book him into anywhere without passing it by me in the first instance.

Best regards,  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 January 2004 18:17 540  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] LPR on Ospina

[REDACTED]  
Ref para 2 below, grateful you reply to [REDACTED] direct.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] 540  
[REDACTED]  
**British Embassy**  
**Bogota**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 12 January 2004 04:30  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Restricted: LPR on Ospina

[Redacted]

S27

From other things I've seen, I think Ospina is visiting 25 Feb - 4 Mar. Could you confirm this and when he is actually lecturing at Shrivenham, so I can suggest dates to Mr Rammell's Office.

Thanks

Thanks

[Redacted]

S40

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 08 January 2004 16:38  
To: [Redacted]  
Subject: [Redacted] LPR on Ospina  
Importance: High

S40

<< File: Ospina Ovalle.doc >>

[Redacted]

We are still trying to track down Ospina's speech when he referred to HR. This will follow once we have it.

Regards,

[Redacted]

1/10/04

[REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED] S40  
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Amnesty on Ospina  
Importance: High

[REDACTED] S40 S40  
Please see exchange below should [REDACTED] call you. I have just spoken to [REDACTED] explaining that we are now going to arrange a call by Ospina on Mr Rammell. He was OK with this providing Ospina was. I'll speak to you later about timing, but 3 March seems sensible if that is when he is in London calling on Min AF.

[REDACTED] S40  
14/1/04

[REDACTED]  
Brazil/Andean Section  
Latin America Department  
WH 2.323  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
[REDACTED] S40

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 14:18  
To: [REDACTED] S40  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Amnesty on Ospina  
Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED] S40

thank you for this. I have no doubt that some NGOs could make political hay out of this visit, but as the AI statement makes clear they were "allegations" and no charges brought. I feel we should be robust in this matter and not be defensive. I will try to send this to [REDACTED] but as we have problems with the gsi link will you make sure he gets a copy. I will also phone him.

Cheers,

[REDACTED] S40  
-----Original Message-----  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 05:43  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Amnesty on Ospina  
S40

[REDACTED]  
Many thanks.

[REDACTED] your e-mail covers these accusations, but if you or colleagues have any further views they would be gratefully received. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] S40  
S35

[REDACTED] S40



Original Message  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 January 2004 10:18  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: REST: Amnesty on Ospina

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[REDACTED] 540

You asked for some information about Amnesty International's concerns regarding General Carlos Ospina, commander of the Colombian armed forces. Please find below (para 1) a statement on the subject by Amnesty's executive director, published on 19 November 2003. Also included (para 2) is an entry from the publication "Human Rights and USA Military Aid to Colombia IV", a joint publication from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Washington Office on Latin America.

1. Wednesday, November 19, 2003 or [REDACTED] at 202/544-0200 x251

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**STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM F. SCHULZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA  
ON PROMOTION OF COLOMBIAN GENERAL OSPINA**

General Carlos Ospina Ovalle's appointment to the position of commander of the Colombian armed forces is nothing short of outrageous. With so many questions raised about the general's human rights record, President Uribe appears to be signaling once again his disdain for human rights and his willingness to tolerate abusive commanders.

General Ospina has a long history of working closely with paramilitary forces responsible for gruesome attacks on civilians. While commander of the Fourth Brigade in 1997 and 1998, troops under his command committed a series of massacres, executions, and torture. In 1997, his troops reportedly surrounded the village of El Aro and allowed paramilitary forces to round up villagers, terrorize, threaten and kill four of them. General Ospina was never suspended and no formal investigation was ever launched, though Colombian law and military regulations require such action to be taken when human rights violations are alleged.

The general's appointment is also a slap in the face to the U.S., which has repeatedly reminded the Colombian government that U.S. security assistance is conditioned on its meeting specific human rights criteria. The U.S. should see Ospina's appointment as clear evidence that the Colombian government and military are not taking this mandate seriously. The U.S. must move beyond its earlier verbal warnings to Colombia and suspend the final allocation of U.S. security assistance for 2003 on human rights grounds as U.S. law requires.

**2. Extract from: Human Rights and USA Military Aid to Colombia IV**  
**A document published jointly by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Washington Office on Latin America**

**General Carlos Ospina Ovalle** was promoted by President Uribe to command Colombia's army despite widespread and credible reports of a series of massacres, executions, and torture that troops under his command committed while he led the Fourth Brigade in 1997 and 1998. General Ospina was never suspended and no formal investigation was launched. The fact that the crimes were allegedly committed by subordinates would not relieve General Ospina of criminal responsibility if he knew or had reason to know that the subordinates planned or carried out these acts. The concept of command responsibility extends to a failure to take necessary and reasonable measures to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators. Several of General Ospina's battalion commanders were later convicted by Colombian civilian courts of working with paramilitaries. After being charged and supposedly detained, two of them left the brigade headquarters where they were under General Ospina's responsibility and joined paramilitary groups. The case involving just one of these



massacres, which took place in El Aro, Antioquia, in 1997, was accepted for review by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2001.

I hope this is of some help,

[REDACTED]

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-----  
[REDACTED]

Americas Research Group,  
Research Analysts,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
London  
SW1A 2AH

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**OSPINA OVALLE, CARLOS ALBERTO**

Commanding General of the Colombian Armed Forces since November 2003.

Born Manizales, Caldas 25 February 1947

Previous posts include:

- Head of Colombian Army
- Inspector General of the Colombian Armed Forces, 2002

A career soldier, Ospina joined the Army as a junior officer, where he carried out the full range of normal duties. He progressed to become, as a Major, the CO in the *Lancers* (Special Forces): Lt Colonel commanding Infantry Battalion No.33 "JUNIN"; Commander of Military Police Battalion No.13 and Commander of the *Lancers* School: Colonel and Chief of Operations in the Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Division: Head of the Army Staff (*Estado Mayor*) of Mobile Brigade No. 2 and Director of the School of Arms and Services. As a Brigadier General he was Commander of the BRIM-2, Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. In 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Major General, and later became the Army's Chief of Operations.

Has worked a guest instructor in advanced infantry tactics in the School of the Americas in Fort Bening, USA. Has been seconded to US Army as a paratrooper.

Academic qualifications include:

- Diploma from Int. Institute for International Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy
- Masters in Strategy, Defence University, Washington D.C.

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[REDACTED]

Has been invited to lecture at the H.C. and Staff Course, Defence College, Shrivenham, in February 2004.

[REDACTED]

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Speaks English.

[REDACTED]

*Sykol - and vis*

*Colonel Ricardo Morales Piedrahita*  
*Colombian Military - Aerial - Attache*



*Pa*  
*4.9*  
*540*

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Colombian Army, I would like to thank your interest, time and assistance during the recent visit to London of General JORGE MORA RANGEL, Commander of that institution, which I have the honour to represent in this country.

Your experience and your professional advice for the solution of our problems have been most stimulating and enlightening, and they will be invaluable tools in our Government's efforts to achieve, once again, peace in Colombia.

The results of this visit, I am sure, will soon be reflected and they will benefit both our people and also the international community.

Please accept my deepest gratitude:

To the : Mr. PETER HAIN, MP,  
Minister of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

PT

*Head/CACD*  
*cc. P/Min Battle*, London, September 2000  
*5/9* *540*



Directorate of Overseas Military Activity  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Room 5175, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Pa  
11/9

[Redacted] OK

Telephone [Redacted] Direct dial [Redacted]  
Fax [Redacted]  
CHOTS [Redacted]  
E Mail [Redacted]

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Latin America and Caribbean Department  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

7/9 D/ DOMA/134/6

4 September 2000

VISIT TO UK BY GENERAL MORA  
COLOMBIAN ARMY COMMANDER

[Redacted] cc: Mr Watwacott  
LA D  
Hvvd  
[Redacted]

1. I arranged and escorted Gen Mora's visit to MoD officials and establishments and debriefed him on the week after his visit to Northern Ireland (NI). It is clear that the visit proved to be entirely successful and Gen Mora found it very worthwhile. In one-to-one conversation the General's English was good which assisted the effectiveness of his briefings and the Colombian Ambassador in London - until recently the President's Peace Commissioner when he worked closely with the General - took a close interest in all events.
2. Nothing of substance arose on what were effectively courtesy calls on Minister Armed Forces and Vice Chief of Defence Staff. The call on the Assistant Chief of General Staff was designed to brief him on the UK Army. The Colombian Ambassador, DHM and Military Assistant (MA) escorted him throughout these calls.
3. The session with Gen Wheeler was a very warm and professional exchange; it lasted an hour and a half and included only the interpreter and myself. For the first half Gen Wheeler outlined the history of the troubles and the security forces involvement; some comparisons with the Malaya and Oman Campaigns also arose. The second half was taken-up by responding to Gen Mora's questions. Areas which generated particular interest were: Police and Army roles, co-operation, and command and control; Intelligence sharing and co-ordination; committee structures; legal empowerment of the Army, Emergency Provisions Act and Prevention of Terrorism Act. In their closing courtesies Gen Mora invited Gen Wheeler to visit Colombia.
4. For the visit to Northern Ireland Training Wing I included the Colombian Defence Attache - a Police General as well as the MA. Gen Mora was struck by the professionalism of our trainers, involvement of the RUC, and investment in tailor made ranges and facilities. He was particularly interested in the Judgmental Trainer, which trains the soldier to avoid shooting innocent civilians, and could easily be adapted to a Colombian setting. Although it seems that the centrepiece of NIITW effort is urban based many of the principals and concepts involved could be translated to rural and even jungle scenarios. I spent 4 hours in transit answering the General's further questions on the UK Army.
5. I was not present for the General's visit to NI but debriefed him on his return, primarily a wash-up on the week. The day in NI had tangibly confirmed what he had learnt in the two previous days. He was gently ebullient and very grateful for an eye-opening week in a pressure-free environment; he had taken many notes and was returning to Colombia with fresh ideas and in

enthusiasm for his Army to pursue closer professional links in several areas. He and his staff would strengthen their liaison with our DA in Bogota.

6. [Redacted] We nevertheless identified 5 aspects which merit consideration for future assistance.

a. Training. Particularly junior commanders and NCOs. Gen Mora may ask to send a Brigadier General or Colonel to look at our junior officer and NCO training.

[Redacted]

c. UK Army Structure. Gen Mora feels that the reform of the Colombian Army could benefit from some of our models, mechanisms and systems.

d. Information Policy. The Colombian Army needs to project the positive aspects of its image better and improve its relations with the media and NGOs.

e. Personnel Mines. The Army and civilians are suffering many casualties from improvised anti-personnel devices. They require assistance in detection methods. They would also like advice on rehabilitation of limbless servicemen.

7. I explained that we are hoping to offer Colombia a place at RCDS in the future and if funds were available possibly a Staff College place; he was keen on both and interested to learn about our new Joint Staff College and jointery generally.

8. It was a pleasure to escort Gen Mora and I took the opportunity to wish him a long tour in office in order that his reforms can be implemented and some policy stability achieved; he felt that there was a good chance of this as he has a good relationship with President Pastrana. The short notice visit achieved more than its aims and strengthened both our support for Colombia and our reputation.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
LtCol  
[Redacted]

URGENT

Telefax

To:	[Redacted]
Fax:	[Redacted]
From:	[Redacted]
Date:	[Redacted]
Pages: 2	



Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
FCO Services

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Report

**General Jorge Enrique MORA**  
**Commander of the Army**

**Bogota**

**COLOMBIA**

21-26 August 2000

Inward Visits Section  
Conference and Visits Group  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

AM1/COB/001



PS 32874

Inward Visits Section

## SUMMARY

Like Britain with Northern Ireland, Colombia too is in a peace process. General Mora wanted to share experiences. Human rights and collusion issues did not arise.

General Mora was fulsome in expressions of satisfaction over his visit.

## PROGRAMME

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Received by duty Minister Hain, General Mora commented how forty years of conflict have held back Colombia's economic development. Government is making great efforts to demonstrate its will to its weary people, and looks to the guerrillas to do likewise. Paramilitaries and guerrillas will be dealt with alike, and personnel from the institutions committing crime will be brought before civil justice.

Mr. Hain prefaced the General's meetings at the Ministry of Defence by volunteering Britain's expertise to increase Colombian professionalism, for which our visitor was grateful.

### Ministry of Defence

General Mora was received first by the Defence Minister. Sympathy was expressed over the magnitude of the General's task. Guerrillas, paramilitaries, and drugs are three problems; Colombia has all three. An offer of assistance was extended.

The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff related his own nautical experience with Colombia, and provided an insight into the Northern Ireland training establishment.

Over lunch the General and Ambassador were urged to mount effective public relations in the UK presenting the Colombian Government's case.

The Assistant Chief of the General Staff emphasised the need to be one step ahead of the terrorists with their ever more sophisticated bombing devices. The Major General presented a folder detailing Britain's worldwide commitments and operations, including Northern Ireland but also Kosovo/Bosnia.

The final, and most important, interlocutor at the Ministry of Defence was the former Chief of the General Staff and former Commander in Northern Ireland. General Sir Roger Wheeler outlined the history of the Northern Ireland situation, explained systems and methods, and stressed the importance of the Army and Police pulling together.



Cabinet War Rooms

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At short notice General Mora and [REDACTED] enjoyed a tour of the Cabinet War Rooms conducted by the curator.

Reception

General Mora was hosted at the Ambassador's residence, where the following were represented:- Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence, Canning House, Latin American diplomats, and Colombians working in London, [REDACTED]

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Northern Ireland Training Wing

General Mora was accompanied to the Lydd ranges by both Military and Police attachés and by [REDACTED] This site prepares soldiers mentally as well as physically prior to deployment to their tour of duty in Northern Ireland. It was stressed that the objective is not to kill but to arrest the enemy for due process through the judicial system. Worst case scenarios, simulated confrontational situations, test soldiers' judgement and reactions.

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Both General Mora and [REDACTED] recognised the need for a final meeting to firm up the successful visit to Lydd. Mora picked out training and intelligence as the two main essentials. He defined medical aid for troops injured in bomb blasts as a possible area for assistance from Britain.

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Since the Colombian army is in the process of evaluating its structure, a scopic study by Britain could lead to an exchange. [REDACTED] floated the possibility of Colombian presence at a British staff college.

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[REDACTED] tenure of this post is ending; his successor will visit Colombia in 2001. General Mora will seek to strengthen relations with our Defence attaché at Bogotá.

Northern Ireland

At the Royal Ulster Constabulary Headquarters the Assistant Chief Constable and his Military counterpart explained the effectiveness of shared intelligence leading to successful joint operations.

At the Northern Ireland Office Headquarters at Stormont our guest heard of negotiations resulting in the Good Friday Agreement.

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[REDACTED] who occupied several important positions in Northern Ireland, including head of the prison service, gave the benefit of his experiences working with all sides of the conflict.

Finally, at the RUC base at Portadown, police and military interlocutors underlined the importance of sharing intelligence, and avoiding duplication.

General Mora highlighted as his pressing need that the Colombian armed forces and police cast aside jealousies and share information gathered for successful operations.

Before departure General Mora spoke with soldiers about their patrols.

[REDACTED]

Dr. Mowlam, who will visit Colombia in September, was away, yet demonstrated her commitment by arranging for a member of the committee on the Northern Ireland peace process to talk to our guest about tough bargaining but maintaining all sides negotiating at the table and the process alive. [REDACTED] S27

[REDACTED]

COMMENTS

[REDACTED] S27

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Interpreter)  
29.08.00

## ANNEX A

PROGRAMME FOR VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY GENERAL MORA,  
COLOMBIAN ARMY CHIEF: 25 AUGUST 2000Friday 25 August 2000

0810 Arrive Belfast International Airport on BD 80

Passengers:

General Mora

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Met on arrival at the Information Desk by  
[REDACTED] Visits Section, NIO

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0815 Depart Belfast International Airport  
(via Jet Centre)Transport NIO Car PoolVehicle 1

Driver: [REDACTED]

Vehicle: [REDACTED]

Reg: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

538

Vehicle 2

Driver: [REDACTED]

Vehicle: [REDACTED]

Reg: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

0855 Arrive Royal Ulster Constabulary  
(RUC) HeadquartersBrooklyn  
Knock Road  
Belfast

Tel: [REDACTED]

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0900-0945 Meeting with Assistant Chief Constable  
[REDACTED] Head of D Department -  
Operations 540[REDACTED]  
Military Liaison will also attend

0950 Depart RUC Headquarters

1000 Arrive Block 'B' Castle Buildings

1000-1100 Meeting with [REDACTED] 540  
Senior Director, Belfast and Director Policing  
& Security and [REDACTED] Associate  
Director, Belfast

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Friday 25 August 2000 (cont'd)

1105 Meeting with [REDACTED] S40 Room B 4.6  
1145 re possible future visit to Colombia

1150 Depart Block 'B' Castle Buildings

1230 Arrive Mahon Road RUC Station Portadown

Met on arrival by Chief Superintendent [REDACTED] S40  
Divisional Commander, J Division

1230- Opportunity to tour the station and meet A light lunch will be provided  
1400 RUC Officers

1400 Depart Mahon Road RUC Station

1445 Arrive Belfast International Airport

1530 Depart Belfast International Airport on BD 89



Minister for the Cabinet Office  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

CABINET OFFICE  
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

S40

RECEIVED  
22 AUG 2000

Pa

[redacted] S40

Private Secretary/Peter Hain Esq MP,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street,  
London SW1A 2AH

21 August 2000

Dear [redacted] S40

I am writing to pass on my Minister's thanks to yours for agreeing to see General Mora during his visit to the United Kingdom this week. As you know, Dr Mowlam is currently out of the country and was very keen to ensure that General Mora's programme includes meetings with senior government figures in advance of her and Mr Battle's visit to Colombia next month.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted signature]

Private Secretary

S40

- 1. *Minister* Fax
- 2. cc. P/M Battle 21/21
- Head: G442 247

29 AUG 2000



Pa

# NATIONAL ARMY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

## CURRICULUM VITAE

<b>1. SURNAMES</b> MORA RANGEL	<b>FORENAMES</b> JORGE ENRIQUE	<b>RANK AND BRANCH</b> GENERAL - ARMY
<b>2. CURRENT POSITION</b> ARMY COMMANDER		
<b>3. DATE OF BIRTH</b> 30 MARCH 1945	<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b> CÚCUTA (NORTE DE SANTANDER)	<b>NATIONALITY</b> COLOMBIAN
<b>4. DATE TO ENTER OFFICERS TRAINING SCHOOL</b> 11 JANUARY 1962		
<b>5. MILITARY PROFESSOR</b> YES	<b>CATEGORY</b> THIRD	
<b>6. PROFESSIONAL STUDIES</b> THOSE APPROPRIATE TO A MILITARY CAREER		
<b>DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COURSES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lancer</li><li>• Parachutist</li><li>• Military Police Instructors</li><li>• Infantry Advanced, Fort Benning, USA</li><li>• Command and Staff, Fort Leavenworth, USA</li><li>• Upper Military Studies</li><li>• English, Interamerican Defence School, USA</li></ul>		
<b>7. LANGUAGES</b> SPANISH - ENGLISH		
<b>8. PROMOTIONS RECEIVED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER FROM DATE OF GRADUATION</b>		
<b>RANK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	
• Second Lieutenant	01 Dec 1964	
• Lieutenant	01 Dec 1968	
• Captain	05 Dec 1972	
• Major	05 Dec 1977	
• Lieutenant Colonel	01 June 1982	
• Colonel	01 June 1987	
• Brigadier General	01 Dec 1992	
• General	07 Aug 1998	

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25 AUG 2000

**9. MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS, COMMISSIONS OR SERVICES DURING MILITARY CAREER**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

- S-2 and S-3 Officer, Military Police Battalion
- Executive and Second Commander, Infantry Battalion
- Student, Infantry Advanced Course, Fort Benning, USA
- Studies Inspector, Cadets Military School
- Commander, Airtransported Battalion
- Commander, Infantry Battalion
- Student, Command course and Staff, Fort Leavenworth, USA
- Commander, Infantry School, Colombian Army
- Brigade Chief-of-Staff
- Head of Department E-2, Army Command Centre
- Interamerican Defence School, USA
- Commander, Mobile Brigade
- Commander, Counter-guerilla Special Operations Command
- Commander, Infantry Brigade
- Head of Department D-3, Chief-of-Staff
- Director, College of Defence Studies
- Commander, Fifth Division
- Army Commander

**10. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, DECORATIONS AND HONOURS**

- Antonio Nariño Military Order of Merit, Officer Category, Commendatory and Great Officer.
- José María Córdoba Military Order of Merit, Knight Category, Commendatory, Great Officer and Great Cross.
- Colonel Guillermo Fergusson Order of Merit, Commendatory Category.
- Order of Boyacá, Great Officer and category Great Cross.
- Almirante Padilla Navy Order of Merit, Great Cross Order.
- Medal for Length of Service: 15, 20, 25 and 30 years.
- Medal Francisco José de Caldas, for loyalty.
- Medal Merit Military Police, Knight Category.
- Medal Ayacucho.
- Medal Marine Infantry, Colombian Navy.
- Medal Francisco de Paula Santander.
- Medal Presidencial Guard, Great Cross.
- Medal St George.
- Medal Military Police, Knight Category.
- Medal Battalion Colombia.
- Military Medal Soldier Candido Leguisamo (CUS)

**11. DATE OF MARRIAGE**



12. WIFE'S FULL NAME [REDACTED] S40	LANGUAGES SPANISH
13. CHILDREN'S NAMES • [REDACTED] S40 • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]	DATES OF BIRTH • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]
14. NAME OF PARENTS [REDACTED] S40	
15. OTHER INFORMATION POSTINGS AND DETACHMENTS OVERSEAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies Commission, Fort Benning, USA</li> <li>• Collective Commission, USA</li> <li>• Studies Commission, Fort Leavenworth, USA</li> <li>• Interamerican Defence School, USA</li> <li>• Diplomatic Commission to the Interamerican Defence School, USA</li> <li>• Collective Commission, Egypt</li> <li>• Service Commission, Puerto Rico</li> <li>• Service Commission, Brazil</li> <li>• Service Commission, USA</li> <li>• Service Commission, USA</li> </ul>	
Santafé de Bogotá, D.C., 10 August 2000 DATE AND PLACE	[REDACTED] (Signed) S40

Pa

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]  
Date: 17 August 2000

540

cc: [Redacted]

540

Chancery, Bogota

To: PS Mr Battle

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: VISIT OF GENERAL MORA TO THE UK, 21-26 AUGUST

1. The Minister will wish to be aware of a particularly unpleasant incident in Colombia on 15 August, reported in today's media. 6 children were killed and several injured by gunfire near a village in southern Antioquia. The circumstances are still unclear but one version claims that soldiers fired indiscriminately on the children (the army claims that ELN guerrillas were present and the children were caught in the cross-fire). President Pastrana has ordered a full investigation.

2. As the Minister is aware, General Mora, the Colombian Army Commander, is visiting the UK on an official visit next week to discuss the peace process, human rights and the paramilitary problem. We think the visit should still go ahead. [Redacted] agrees, and we have provided News Department with the attached press lines on the visit, which includes a reference to the shooting incident. We are inviting Mora here precisely because of the violence and human rights problems in Colombia - and to explore how best we can help the Colombian Government's efforts to tackle these problems. Grateful to know if the Minister is content.

540

1

[Redacted]

540

WH323  
Tel: [Redacted]  
Fax: [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
24 AUG 2000

NO. OF ATTACHMENTS: 2

[Redacted]



Pa

Embajada Británica  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, D.C.

17 August 2000

[Redacted] 540  
LACD

by airtech

[Redacted] 540

THE MORA VISIT: TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Gen Mora is booked Bogota-London on BA 2048 arriving Gatwick at 12.25 on Monday 21 August.

2. We have booked his return on Avianca flight AV 17 leaving Heathrow on Saturday 26 August at 14.00 arriving back here at 19.25 the same day. There are two options to get him from Belfast to catch that flight: British Midland or British Airways flights quite late on Friday evening, or a British Midland flight from Belfast at 11.10 on the Saturday. What are the preferences of the people in the Northern Ireland Office? Would [Redacted] be interested in buying Gen Mora a drink on Friday night?

3. I went over the draft programme with Mora on Wednesday afternoon (a discussion somewhat overshadowed by other events!) He seemed very happy indeed with what we had to offer.

John 540

[Redacted]
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24 AUG 2000

[Redacted Signature]

Chargé d'Affaires



Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
FCO Services

Pa

[Redacted]  
22/8

[Redacted]
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23 AUG 2000
REG
[Redacted]

Programme of arrangements

**General Jorge Enrique MORA**  
**Commander of the Army**  
**Bogota**

**COLOMBIA**

21-26 August 2000

Accompanied by [Redacted] Inward Visits Section,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Visits Officer

[Redacted]  
Inward Visits Section  
Conference and Visits Group  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

[Redacted]

AM1/COB/001



15 32031

Inward Visits Section

Monday 21 August

**ARRIVAL**

1225

Arrive at London Gatwick Airport, Sussex Suite,  
on British Airways flight BA 2048 from Bogota.

Met by [REDACTED] <sup>540</sup> Inward Visits Section, Foreign and  
Commonwealth Office.

Continue by car to the [REDACTED] <sup>543</sup>  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] where accommodation has been reserved.

Tuesday 22 August

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE**

1445

Leave the hotel by car

1500

Arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
Kings Charles Street, SW1 (Ambassadors' Entrance).

Met by Mr Peter Hain, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs.

1530

Leave the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by car for return to  
the hotel.

Wednesday 23 August

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
LUNCH ENGAGEMENT  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
GENERAL SIR ROGER WHEELER**

1115

Leave the hotel by car accompanied by [REDACTED] <sup>540</sup>

1130



Arrive at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, SW1.

Met by Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

1200

Leave Whitehall by car.

Wednesday 23 August contd

- 1230 Arrive at The Avenue Restaurant, 7 St James's Street, SW1.
- Joined for lunch by:
- His Excellency Mr Victor G Ricardo  
Colombian Ambassador
- Mr Peter Westmacott  
Deputy Under Secretary of State, Wider World  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Major General Kevin O'Donoghue  
Assistant Chief of the General Staff  
Ministry of Defence
-  S40  
Deputy Head, Latin America and Caribbean  
Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
-  S40  
Head, Latin America & Caribbean Section, Directorate  
Overseas Military Activity, Ministry of Defence
- 1415 Leave St James's Street by car.
- 1430 Arrive at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, SW1.
- Met by Major General Kevin O'Donoghue,  
Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Ministry of Defence.
- 1500 Met by General Sir Roger Wheeler, former  
Chief of the General Staff.
- 1600 Leave Whitehall by car for return to the hotel.
- 1850 Leave the hotel by car.
- 1900 Arrive at the Residence of the Colombian Ambassador,  
76 Chester Square, SW1.
- Attend a reception as the guest of the Colombian Embassy.
- Host: His Excellency Mr Victor G Ricardo,  
Ambassador of Colombia to the Court of St James's.
- Later Leave Chester Square by car for return to the hotel.

Thursday 24 August

**NORTHERN IRELAND TRAINING WING**

0900 Leave the hotel by car.

1100 Arrive at the Northern Ireland Training Wing, Shorncliffe, Kent.

Met by [REDACTED] Commanding Officer.

1500 Leave Shorncliffe by car for return to the hotel. <sup>540</sup>

Friday 25 August

**LONDON-BELFAST  
ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY  
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND  
BELFAST-LONDON**

0530 Leave the hotel by car.

0625 Arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1.

0655 Depart on British Midland flight BD80.

0810 Arrive at Belfast Airport.

Met by [REDACTED] Visits Section, Northern Ireland Office, and continue by car <sup>540</sup>

0900 Arrive at the Royal Ulster Constabulary Headquarters, Brooklyn, Knock Road, Belfast.

Met by [REDACTED] Assistant Chief Constable, Head D Department-Operations. <sup>540</sup>

0945 Leave Knock Road by car.

1000 Arrive Block 'B' Castle Buildings, Belfast.

Met by [REDACTED] Senior Director, Policing and Security, Northern Ireland Office, and [REDACTED] Associate Political Director, Belfast <sup>540</sup>

1100 Meeting with [REDACTED] <sup>540</sup>

1130 Leave Block 'B' Castle Buildings by car.



**Friday 25 August contd**

1200 Arrive RUC Base, Northern Ireland.  
An appointment is being sought with RUC personnel.

1420 Depart RUC Base by car.

1430 Other appointments are being sought.

1625 Arrive at Belfast Airport.

1725 Depart on British Midland flight BD 091.

1845 Arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, and continue by car to the hotel.

**Saturday 26 August**

**DEPARTURE**

1130 Leave the hotel by car (with luggage).

1230 Arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Hounslow Suite.

1400 Depart on Avianca flight AV 17 to Bogota.



Embajada Británica  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, D.C.

18 August 2000

[Redacted]

S40

LACD

by airtech

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Pa

D [Redacted]

S40

THE MORA VISIT

1. [Redacted]

S27

2. We have made a booking for him, and he holds a flight voucher, for the journey Belfast-London Heathrow. The booking is British Midland flight BD 85 on Saturday 26 August, arriving Heathrow at 12.30. His onward flight to Bogota is by Avianca, leaving at 14.00 that day. He is ready to be guided by you, or the escorting officer, on whether this timing is too tight.

S40

Speaks to [Redacted]

3. You might want to suggest to [Redacted] at the Colombian Embassy that he speaks to Avianca to get the General an upgrade on his homeward journey. He currently has a business class ticket.

Avianca only has 2 classes.

S40

[Redacted] 2/4

[Redacted signature]

S40

Chargé d'Affaires

VA

From: APS/Mr Hain  
Date: 18 August 2000

cc: PS/Mr Battle  
PS/Dr Mowlam  
Mr Westmacott  
[redacted] DICD  
[redacted] HRPD  
540 [redacted] LACD  
[redacted] LACD  
[redacted] News Dept  
[redacted] CVG

To: [redacted] 540  
LACD

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: VISIT TO THE UK BY GENERAL MORA, 21-26 AUGUST

1. Mr Hain was grateful for your submission of 16 August. He has agreed to see General Mora during his forthcoming visit to the UK. We have reserved a slot in the diary for 15:00 on Tuesday 22 August. I should be grateful if briefing could be with us for the box closing at 12:00 on Monday 21 August.

[redacted] 540

[redacted]  
APS/Mr Hain 540  
W/59  
Tel: [redacted]  
email: [redacted]

[redacted]
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22 AUG 2000

[redacted]

RECEIVED

17 AUG 2000

[REDACTED]	
RECEIVED	[REDACTED]
30 min	
22 AUG 2000	
PB	
7/15	

(20)

Reference:

From: Sean Melbourne  
Date: 16 August 2000

540

*Siria Dr. Mowlam and [REDACTED] will be away, it would be very valuable if Mr. Hain could see General Mora to discuss conflict prevention and human rights issues. Mora is a (the?) key figure in the search for an end to violence in Colombia.*

cc: PS/Mr Battle  
PS/Dr Mowlam  
Mr Westmacott  
[REDACTED] DICD  
[REDACTED] HRPD  
[REDACTED] LACD  
[REDACTED] LACD  
[REDACTED] News Dept  
[REDACTED] CVG

540

PS/Mr Hain

16/8

COLOMBIA: VISIT TO THE UK BY GENERAL MORA, ARMY COMMANDER, 21-26 AUGUST

ISSUE

1. Whether Mr Hain as Duty Minister and Minister responsible for Human Rights and Conflict Prevention would be able to see General Mora, Colombian Army Commander, in the week beginning 21 August.

TIMING

2. Priority. Conference and Visits Group need to finalise the programme before the General arrives on 21 August.

PREFERRED OPTION

3. That the Minister meet the General for 30-45 minutes, should the diary allow. Tuesday 22 August would be the best option in our view but a meeting could otherwise be arranged on the afternoon of 21 August, or 23 August.

BACKGROUND & ARGUMENT

4. Since the Prime Minister's meeting with President Pastrana on 13 April, the UK has been at the forefront of international efforts to help the Colombian Government advance the peace process in Colombia. We hosted a meeting on Colombia in London on 19 June which in turn paved the way for a successful international Conference on Colombia in Madrid on 7 July. Mo Mowlam, who represented the UK at Madrid and paid a fact-finding visit to Colombia in June, has been active in coordinating the international response and advising on the best way forward. Both she and John Battle plan to visit Colombia from 10-13 September.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.

[REDACTED]

S27

A

B

A meeting with the Minister would reinforce our concern about the situation in Colombia at an appropriately high-level, help to demonstrate our commitment to helping the Colombian Government advance the peace process, and represents an opportunity to engage a key player on human rights and the complex situation in Colombia generally.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

8.

[REDACTED]

S35

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. Nil.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S40

[REDACTED]

LACD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [redacted] Overseas Secretariat  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Pa  
[redacted] 1/5  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Latin America and Caribbean Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Your Reference  
Our Reference  
D/Sec(0)/9/8/5  
Date  
28 July 2000

[redacted] 540

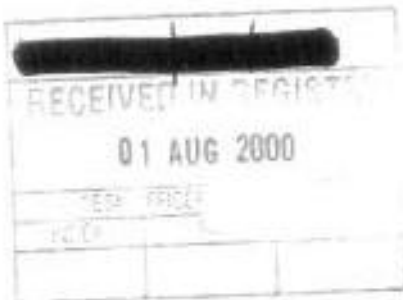
[redacted] 540

COLOMBIA: POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UK BY GENERAL MORA

Thank you for your note of 27 July. I am sorry that my response was disappointing, but the scope of the original request was such that it would have been inappropriate for the MOD to do otherwise.

If you are now proposing to widen the scope of the proposed visit by General Mora beyond Northern Ireland issues, we would be happy to consider a programme of visits within the MOD to facilitate discussion on general security issues. The importance of human rights in modern army operations may be a little more difficult: the modules on this subject which form part of the training currently being conducted in Sierra Leone are run by the International Committee of the Red Cross, rather than us.

The timing of such a visit will, however, be critical; the summer leave period is now upon us, and we would find it extremely difficult to accommodate such a visit in the period you suggest. If you could schedule the visit for mid-September onwards, we could, I am sure, work up a programme to meet the requirements of both you and General Mora.



Yours ever

[redacted signature]

540

① [redacted] DHM Bogota (just [redacted])

② [redacted] 540

LACD 28/7

1-5. Happy to discuss further if you wish.



16A

Minister for the Cabinet Office  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
CABINET OFFICE  
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS

FACSIMILE NO. [REDACTED] 540  
TELEPHONE NO. [REDACTED]

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION HEADER SHEET

TO: [REDACTED] 540

FAX NO: [REDACTED]

DATE: 21 August 2000

[REDACTED]
RECEIVED IN [REDACTED]
22 AUG 2000
TELE. UNIT
[REDACTED]

NO OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE) : 3

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Private Secretary

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT REQUIRED: YES/NO

MESSAGE:

[REDACTED] - aware of Friday's meeting.  
Grateful for any comments.  
Thanks, [REDACTED] 540

21 August 2000

**NOTE OF MEETING BETWEEN DR MOWLAM & [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ABOUT FORTHCOMING VISIT TO COLOMBIA & BRAZIL**

Present: MCO  
[REDACTED] (FCO)  
[REDACTED] (PS/MCO)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**1. GENERAL MORA'S VISIT (w/c 21 August)**

- Additions to General Mora's programme: an audience with Peter Hain (for which letter of thanks - [REDACTED] MCO suggested finding someone to take General Mora to dinner on his first night.
- Aim of the visit: to have General Mora invite some of those he meets to Colombia to reform the paramilitaries and the army.
- MCO noted that FCO had stated that they invited General Mora; in reality it was Dr Mowlam's invitation.
- Press arrangements: low key.

[REDACTED]

S35

- [REDACTED] agreed to speak with [REDACTED] concerning the lifting of a restriction on briefing General Mora at an army base in N Ireland.

[REDACTED]

S27

NOT RELEVANT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]