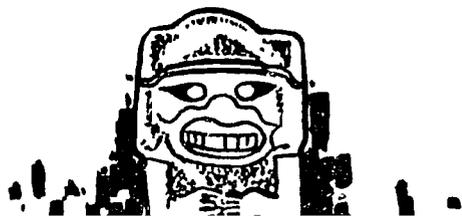




Welcome
to
Colombia



COLOMBIA AND THE UNITED STATES

A Briefing Paper

March, 1969

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with background information about Colombia and to tell you something about the activities of the United States Mission here.

In 1822 our country was one of the first to recognize this then newly independent nation which until 1861 was called New Granada. Following this recognition President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams named a former two-term Congressman from Kentucky, Richard C. Anderson, as the first Minister. Anderson, accompanied by his wife and three small children, arrived in Bogotá on December 10, 1823 after a nearly five months journey by sailing frigate from Hampton Roads to Venezuela and thence overland by mule via the border city of Cucuta. He served until 1826 and was successful in negotiating a Treaty of Peace, Amity, Navigation and Commerce and in settling many claims on behalf of U.S. citizens. While enroute to the first Pan American Congress scheduled to be held in Panama in June, 1826 (this time having descended the Magdalena River on a side-wheeler) he contracted a fever and died near Cartagena. His successor as Minister was the man who was later to be our 9th President -- William Henry Harrison.

In the years since 1823, 39 Ministers and Charges d'Affaires and 11 Ambassadors have represented the United States in this country. Our relations for the most part have been close and friendly -- the one exception being the period following 1903 when Panama seceded and the United States then built the Panama Canal.

In 1922 this troubling matter was closed by the Settlement of Differences Treaty under whose terms the United States paid Colombia \$25,000,000 and agreed to certain special Colombian rights in the use of the Panama Canal. Since that time we have worked closely and harmoniously with Colombia. In 1951 Colombia supported us morally and physically in repelling the North Korean aggression. Four Colombian infantry battalions of over 1,000 soldiers each served successively until 1953 fighting alongside U.S. troops. In like manner three Colombian Navy frigates also served with U.S. Naval forces in the area until 1955. Colombian casualties were some 143 killed, 69 missing in action, 448 wounded and 30 prisoners.

Now, under the energetic, progressive leadership of President Carlos Lleras, Colombia is making important advances toward the goals set by the Alliance for Progress. Reforms in the political, social, and economic fields are opening the way for a more promising future for millions of Colombians. The Government of the United States is proud and pleased to be a partner in this effort.



Reynold E. Carlson
Ambassador of the United States of America

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CHARACTERIZATION OF COLOMBIA

With an area of 440,505 square miles, Colombia is the fourth largest country on the continent, about as large as Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico combined. Colombia, the only South American country facing extensively on two oceans, has a coastline of over 800 miles on the Pacific Ocean and 1,000 miles along the Caribbean, but its best ports are on the Caribbean, and the main river, the Magdalena, empties into that sea. Colombia's location, close to the Panama Canal and adjoining Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Panama, has given it special strategic importance.

The Andes enter Colombia at the southwest part of the country and fan out in three quite distinct mountain ranges which run through the country from south to the north and northeast in the same general direction as the coastline. These mountains divide the country into three main geographic regions. They are: (1) The flat coastal areas broken only by the high Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range; (2) The highlands or plateau area; and (3) The sparsely-settled eastern plains (the Llanos) drained by the tributaries of the Orinoco and Amazon Rivers.

The climate varies from extreme tropical heat to steady biting cold. Temperatures are determined largely by altitudes; the lowlands along the coast are hot and humid; the high plateaus have frequent light rains and the weather is always springlike. In the highlands, including Bogotá, there are generally two dry seasons - from December to February and from June to August.

The 1968 population of Colombia is estimated at about 19 million, making it the most populous Latin American country after Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. Most of the population is concentrated in a small area of the country. More than 98% live in 40% of the territory at a density of 59 persons per square mile. Only 1.7% inhabit 60% of the territory at a density of much less than one person per square mile. More than half of the population is a mixture of white and Indian blood; perhaps a quarter is white and the remainder Mulattoes, Negroes and others. It has been estimated that no more than 2% of the local population is pure Indian, and these live as isolated tribes. Current urban population is estimated to be nearly 50% of the local population. This figure reflects a significant movement from farm to city in recent years. Although immigration has been negligible, the increase in population has been very rapid. The population is overwhelmingly Catholic. Literacy is estimated at approximately 62%.

Bogotá, the capital city, has a population estimated in 1968 at over two million. Other large cities in descending order of population are Cali, Medellín, Barranquilla, and Cartagena.

BASIC STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Area in Square Miles:	440,505
Population:	19,000,000 (Estimate for 1968) Annual rate of increase 2.9 percent
Density:	43 persons per square mile.
Capital City:	Bogota
Population of Bogota	2,000,000 (Estimate for 1968)
Gross National Product:	Ps. 91 billion (US 5.6 billion).
Per Capita:	Ps. 4,891 Gross National Product per head. (US\$301)
Principal Nature Resources:	Petroleum, coal, gold, platinum, emeralds, dyewoods and hardwoods.
Principal Crops:	Coffee, bananas, corn, beans, sugar, cotton, rice, tobacco, fibers, cacao and potatoes.
Principal Manufactures:	Textiles, beverages, petroleum derivatives, food products, steel products, tires and rubber goods, cement, shoes and clothing, fertil- izers, paper, appliances, drugs, glass, jewelry, handicrafts.
Principal Exports:	<u>1968 (Est)</u>

	<u>Amount</u> (million of U.S. Dollars)	<u>Percent</u>
Coffee	320	63
Petroleum	93	18
Cotton	33	7
Bananas	24	5
Sugar	21	4
Tobacco	14	3
TOTAL	505 million dollars	100%

Principal Imports:

Chemical and pharmaceutical, raw materials, machinery and spare parts, cast iron and steel, automobiles, fertilizers, petroleum derivatives, paper and paperboard products, wool, cereals, vegetable fats and oils, cacao, and precision optical equipment.

Unit of Currency:

Peso quoted at 17.03 buying & 17.10 selling as of March 12, 1969. Rate is flexible.

Railroads:	3729 Kilometers
Roads	45,000 kilometers
U.S. Direct Investment	About 750 million dollars
Total U.S. Citizens in Country	An estimated 10,000 to 12,000

I. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND POLITICS OF COLOMBIA

A. Government Organization

1. Colombia's basic law is the Constitution of 1886, as amended. It provides for a republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The President heads the Government (Executive Branch) and is elected by direct popular vote for a four-year term. A President may not succeed himself. He appoints his own Ministers, of which there are thirteen. The Vice President (designado) is elected by Congress, according to the Constitution every two years although in practice this period varies.

2. For local administration the country is divided into 22 departments, 3 "comisarias" and 2 "intendencias", the latter two somewhat resembling the former territories of the United States. Each department has a Governor appointed by the President and an Assembly elected by popular vote. Each department, comisaria, and intendencia is divided into municipalities or municipal districts with popularly elected Municipal Councils and with Mayors who are appointed by the Governors and act as their agents. The Municipal Councils also appoint certain other city officials including the "personeros" and the Municipal Treasurers. The municipality of Bogotá and surrounding area form a special district subject only to the central government with its Mayor appointed by the President.

3. The Legislature is bicameral with a Senate elected every four years coincident with the Presidential term, and a Chamber of Representatives elected every two years. The Senators and Representatives are elected by Departments, in principle, with one Senator for every 190,000 and one representative for every 90,000 inhabitants. The Chamber of Representatives currently has 204 members and the Senate 106. With certain exceptions, legislation requires 2/3 majority of those present and voting for passage.

4. A bi-partisan National Front was constitutionally established in December 1957 by referendum and after agreement between leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties. Under the party system provided by the National Front all elective and appointive public officers at all levels are equally divided between the two parties. The Presidency also alternates between the two parties, the present President, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, a Liberal, to serve until 1970. The National Front, according to present Constitutional provisions, is to last for 16 years or until 1974. The constitutional reform approved by the Legislative Act No. 1 of December 11, 1968 established a competitive participation of all political groups in departmental assembly and municipal council elections in 1970, and extended the parity system until 1978, permitting after 1978 the participation in the government of other parties than that of the President. The National Front system allows for participation of opposition groups under the labels of the Conservative and Liberal parties. At the present time the groups elected to Congress, but in opposition to the National Front, are the National Popular Alliance (ANAPO) and the Lauro-Alzatista Conservatives.

B. Political Groups

5. The Unionista Conservatives, whose principal leader is ex-President Mariano Ospina Perez, form the Conservative element supporting the National Front System. This group will provide the Presidential candidate for the 1970 elections. In the 1968 Congressional elections it obtained about 560,000 popular votes and elected 50 Representatives to the Chamber.

6. The Lauro-Alzatista Conservatives are a group formed by former followers of ex-President Laureano Gomez and of Conservative leader of the 1950's, Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, both now deceased. Alvaro Gomez, Laureano's son, led the group in the past elections. This group has maintained separate identity from the Unionista group, although there have been efforts and there still is talk about the possibility of union. This group obtained 190,000 popular votes in the 1968 elections and captured 21 seats in the lower house of Congress.

7. The Liberal Party, whose de facto leader is President Carlos Lleras, constitutes the Liberal element of the National Front. The Liberal Party was strengthened in 1967 through union with the former Revolutionary Liberal Movement (MRL) led by Alfonso Lopez Michelsen. The Liberals gained 1,200,000 popular votes in the 1968 elections and have 94 seats in the Chamber of Representatives.
8. A Communist-front group, the MRL del Pueblo, which in the 1968 elections capitalized on the popularity of the name of the former MRL, received 51,000 popular votes in that election and achieved 2 seats in the lower house.
9. The National Popular Alliance (ANAPO) is an opposition group led by ex-President General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. The ANAPO ran candidates in the 1968 elections on both the Liberal and the Conservative slates, having most of its strength, however, among Conservative ranks. The group acquired 315,000 Conservative votes with 31 seats in the Chamber of Representatives and 73,500 Liberal votes for 6 seats, or a total of 388,500 votes and 37 seats.
10. There is also a Social Christian Democratic Party in Colombia which has stated its intention to participate at local government level in the 1970 elections assuming approval of the proposed constitutional reform.

C. Important Non-Official Groups

11. The Catholic Church in Colombia has always been of great importance in the life of the people. An estimated ninety-five per cent of the people belong to the Catholic Church. Although the Church does not participate functionally in government, it is a prime factor in the educational system of the country. The Church is becoming more and more aware and active in the field of social progress and remains the institution of primary significance in guiding the spiritual life of the people, including their leaders.
12. The universities of Colombia are playing an increasingly important role in shaping the minds and attitudes of Colombia's leaders, and the students in these universities are becoming more and more articulate on the problems of Colombia and of the world. One of the principal universities is National University in Bogotá, a public institution, with 14,000 students. Bogotá has 12 other private and parochial universities, and in addition there are 25 recognized institutions of higher learning throughout the rest of the country.

13. In the trade union movement in Colombia there are 3 national confederations and a number of independent unions, some of which are affiliated with the international trade secretariats. The democratic confederations are the Union for Colombian Workers (UTC) and the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC), each claiming over 350,000 members. The third confederation is the Communist-controlled Confederation of Colombian Trade Unions (CSTC), which was organized in 1967 and has an estimated 125,000 members. Most of the labor union strength lies in urban industry. Total organized labor claimed by Colombian unions is about 1,560,000, which would represent about 30 per cent of the total labor force and 53 per cent of the non-agricultural labor force. Only a very small percentage of rural workers are organized. The American Institute of Free Labor Development, financed in part by AID, by the U.S. labor movement (AFL-CIO) and by American business, is active with a labor education program in Colombia. As a result of this program and the democratic unions' own effort, significant progress has been made in making these labor organizations more effective, for instance in encouraging the negotiation of a relatively large number of collective bargaining contracts guaranteeing, for the organized workers at least, better salaries, working conditions and other perquisites.

D. Insurgency Movements

14. There are three guerrilla organizations operating in isolated outlying areas of Colombia, none of which poses a threat at the present time to expand significantly beyond their current areas of operation. The largest and oldest of these organizations is the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the guerrilla arm of the Moscow-oriented Communist Party of Colombia (PCC), operating principally in the mountainous areas of Huila, Quindio, Tolima, and Caquetá, Departments south of Bogotá. A group composed mostly of students and ex-students, and more oriented toward Cuba, is the National Liberation Army (ELN) which has its base of operations principally in Santander Department in the isolated forest areas leading away from the Magdalena River. The most recently-formed group is the relatively small Popular Army of Liberation (EPL) located in southern Córdoba Department in the so-called Alto Sinu and Alto San Jorge areas. This group is said to be essentially oriented toward Communist China. In total there are probably not more than a few hundred active insurgents in all three groups.

II. THE COLOMBIAN ECONOMY

A. General

1. Colombia is a country in the middle to upper range among the world's less developed nations. In size it is fourth in South America, with 440,000 square miles, or twice the size of Texas. The per capita income is in the neighborhood of US \$300 a year. Somewhat less than half of the country's population of over 19 million derive their livelihood from agricultural pursuits. Agricultural production contributes roughly one-third of the country's total gross domestic product. Coffee is the most important crop, representing about one-fourth of the value of total agricultural output. Manufacturing follows agriculture as the second most important sector of the economy, accounting for slightly less than 20% of the gross domestic product. Colombia is not rich in known mineral resources with the exception of petroleum, but further exploration efforts are currently being made. It is the fourth largest oil producer in South America, following after Venezuela, Mexico and Argentina. Foreign oil companies predominate in the industry, although there is also a State oil company, which is growing rapidly and which is particularly prominent in refining operations.

B. U.S. Investment

2. The United States has close commercial ties with Colombia, being the principal supplier of its imports and the leading buyer of its exports. In the 1962-66 period the United States had 47% of the country's total import trade and took 50% of the country's export trade. U.S. private businesses are prominent and numerous in Colombia. In 1967, according to a survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. private investment totalled \$610 million, mainly in petroleum (\$309 million) and manufacturing (\$192 million).

C. Balance of Payments

3. Colombia suffers from a structural balance of payments problem caused by rapid growth of import needs and slow growth of coffee exports. It is still vitally dependent upon foreign financial assistance to cover the balance of payments gap and to finance major economic development projects. While there are very difficult economic and social obstacles to be overcome, Colombia is regarded as a country of good development potential. AID, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Bank, and the World Bank all have active credit operations with Colombia.

4. Basically, the balance of payments problem arises from an insufficiently favorable trade balance. In recent years coffee exports have accounted for 60 to 70% of the value of Colombia's total exports. Possibilities for expansion of coffee exports in a situation of world overproduction and of an international quota system are slight. Similarly, the outlook for higher international coffee prices is not favorable, certainly over the short and medium term. What is needed, as the Colombian Government publicly recognizes, is the development of other exports. The so-called minor exports (everything except coffee and petroleum) amounted to about \$150 million in 1968, an increase of 25% over the preceding year. The Government has incentive programs to stimulate minor exports, and projects accumulative annual increases in minor export earnings of 25% or so during the coming five years. The goal is ambitious but not impossible of realization. Movement towards a Latin American common market, and the project for Andean subregional economic integration, could also provide significant opportunities for Colombia to expand its exports. However, to take optimum advantage of these opportunities Colombia will have to improve the efficiency of its export industries.

D. Governmental Program

5. The Lleras Government, which began its four-year administration in August 1966, has a comprehensive understanding of the country's economic and social problems. It wishes rapid development via stable, non-inflationary fiscal and credit policies, and is reform minded but seeks evolutionary rather than abrupt and drastic changes. It is a Government that places emphasis on national planning and on basic structural changes rather than short term remedies. Its policy embraces considerable centralism in Government particularly with regard to decision making. Administration, however, is much more decentralized. It follows an orthodox line in its fiscal operations, executing national budgets balanced without resort to inflationary borrowing. At the same time it has succeeded in raising expenditures for public sector investments year by year. Characteristic of Latin American countries, there is a need for better collection of taxes. The Government has been working hard on this problem and has plans for continuing tax reform. While public savings might well be further increased, it can be said that the Government is devoting a substantial percentage of its budget to economic and social development projects.

E. Social Problems

6. Colombia has a number of serious social problems, which have their origins primarily in economic disequilibrium. It is

estimated that a significant proportion of the rural population lives at a subsistence level, at the margin of the monetized economy. There is a high rate of unemployment in the cities, estimated at 10 to 15%. The unemployment problem is aggravated by a trend of farm to city migration. The educational facilities are inadequate to the country's needs -- although the Government has been devoting about 12% of the national budget to education and is endeavoring to carry out educational reforms.

F. Economic Growth

7. The rate of growth of the gross domestic product averaged 4.5% during the period 1961-67. Because of a population growth rate that runs 3.2 to 3.4% per year, the net per capita GDP growth rate has been little over 1% in recent years. It is a rate of growth not sufficient to meet the many needs of a developing country such as Colombia. However, the growth rate in 1968 rose to about 6%, and a period of accelerating development appeared at hand. As of early 1969, the economy was evidencing signs of stability and favorable prospects for the future.

III. U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA

A. Agency for International Development (AID)

1. Background

With the signing of the Charter of Punta del Este on August 17, 1961, the U.S. joined in the Alliance for Progress, a joint effort to help Latin America improve its living standards through fuller and better use of internal and external resources, within expanded national development programs. AID (as were its predecessor agencies) has been the primary U.S. vehicle for channeling its capital and technical assistance to the cooperating nations under the Alliance for Progress.

2. Objectives

The principal objective of AID assistance is to contribute to more rapid economic growth by helping Colombia in its major efforts to achieve a basic transformation in its economy. This has involved major financial assistance to help make feasible reforms undertaken by the Colombian Government as called for by the Charter of Punta del Este, technical advice in strengthening of Colombian institutions, and sponsorship of training to develop skilled manpower. In response to pressing social needs, an important part of AID assistance has gone to help Colombia improve programs and services in the key fields of education, agriculture, health and housing.

The AID program is planned and carried out in close collaboration with other international agencies. Institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank join with AID in providing capital and other assistance to meet priority development needs. During the period July 1966-December 1968 (which coincides closely to the tenure of President Lleras), the IDB and the IBRD together committed \$216.7 million to projects in Colombia. The Government of Canada committed \$17.8 million.

The GOC presented a list of projects for CY 1969 during the meeting of the Consultative Group in Paris in January 1969 which valued \$329.1 million. Only \$15.5 million of these projects were presented for possible financing by AID; the remaining \$313.6 million were to be financed by the IBRD, IDB, other members of the Consultative Group and by suppliers. About \$190 million of the projects are expected to be financed by the IBRD and IDB.

3. AID Program

Over the past several years AID's assistance to Colombia has averaged close to \$100 million per year. Currently this is the fifth largest U.S. economic assistance program in the world. This extensive program has been justified by the existing opportunities for rapid growth in Colombia, the determination of a reform-minded administration with established development policies, and qualified leadership in both the public and private sectors.

Program and sector loans are the major AID tool in Colombia and have amounted to approximately \$378 million since the beginning of the Alliance. They provide a maximum opportunity to help Colombia overcome the constraints on its development which are caused by a persistent balance of payments problem and inadequate supplies of foreign exchange. Program lending works by providing U.S. loan dollars to achieve a satisfactory level of imports into Colombia, a need directly related to the possibilities for economic growth. At the same time, the Colombian pesos, or "counterpart" generated through the sale by the Colombian Government to importers of the dollars loaned, finance high priority public development projects and loans to the private sector, capital costs of irrigation systems, new schools, water and sewerage systems, and electric power transmission lines. These projects are the major recipients of almost 4 billion pesos of "counterpart" which have been made available to date. The new technique of sector lending puts special emphasis on improvements in key sectors such as agriculture and education, and the counterpart from these loans is directed to projects in the sector.

In addition to the program loans, AID has made project loans totalling \$78 million, most of which provide capital assistance to intermediate credit institutions for relending to export development industries, for supervised agricultural credit and for livestock development.

A third major form of AID assistance has been a grant program averaging \$4 million a year, which finances the training and technical assistance required to supplement other kinds of U.S. help. Grant assistance has been concentrated in areas such as Tax and Customs Reform, Agriculture, Education and Public Safety. For example, 33 advisors under a contract with the University of Nebraska are helping the Colombian Agricultural and Livestock

Institute and the National University to improve their effectiveness in agricultural teaching, research and extension. A contract has recently been signed with New Mexico University under which long-term advisors will assist the Ministry of Education and several Colombian universities in a project to improve public secondary education by constructing and staffing 19 comprehensive high schools. The World Bank is providing much of the financial assistance needed for construction of these schools. Another recently negotiated grant project is technical assistance to the Colombian Land Reform Institute in training administrators and technicians required for large scale irrigation projects.

Finally, a significant portion of U.S. assistance to Colombia consists of U.S. agricultural commodities. In addition to sales of needed commodities such as wheat under favorable conditions regarding repayment, the indicated export market value of donations of milk, cereals, and vegetable oils, totalled approximately \$81 million from FY 1962 through FY 1969.

B. Military Assistance Program

1. The U.S. Military Group and Missions.

The U.S. Military Group in Colombia consists of a joint headquarters element, an Army Section, Navy Section and an Air Force Section. The three Service Sections are also referred to as Missions.

The Military Group is responsible for the entire U.S. military effort in Colombia except for Defense Attaché and some Inter-American Geodetic Survey matters. The Military Group Commander reports directly to the U.S. Ambassador in country and to the Commander-in-Chief, Southern Command in Panama. Service Section or Mission Chiefs report directly to the Military Group Commander and their respective force component commanders in Panama.

The primary mission of the Military Group is, through advice and assistance, to assist the Colombians in maintaining efficient and effective military forces capable of insuring the internal security of Colombia.

The Military Group Headquarters works essentially with

the Commanding General of the Colombian Armed Forces and his staff and, through the Commanding General, with the Minister of Defense. The Service Sections or Missions work with the Commanders, staffs and units of the respective Colombian Armed Forces. The total effort is coordinated with the Country Team to insure a coordinated approach to the accomplishment of U.S. objectives.

The U.S. Navy Mission was established in Colombia in 1946 and Army and Air Force Missions in 1949. These were established on the request of the Government of Colombia and function under the terms of Colombian-United States Government Agreements.

Military assistance has been provided to Colombia under the terms of a Joint Agreement signed 17 April 1952 and which has been modified from time to time over the years. Provision of military assistance to Colombia has continued since 1953 and is considered to be in the best interests of both parties.

2. Current Activities

The current program concentrates on completing the equipping of those units directly engaged in counter-guerrilla operations. Increased mobility, including the use of helicopters, is a major aspect of the present effort. Military assistance is also being provided to engineering units which are involved in military civic action, building roads and schools, drilling wells and establishing health posts in violence areas. In addition, an increasingly important part of the current program is the provision of training to the Colombian Armed Forces in Colombia, Panama and the United States in various schools and in joint combined training exercises.

3. The Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS)

IAGS is the Inter-American Geodetic Survey unit and works directly with the IAGS Headquarters in the Canal Zone for its mapping and charting functions. It is not involved directly with the Colombian Armed Forces but works directly with the Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi. IAGS is, and has been for many years throughout Latin America, involved in helping develop accurate geographical information required for major engineering and construction projects, the development of natural resources, and many other purposes for which accurate maps and other data are so necessary. This work involves such things as aerial photography, land surveys, hydrographic harbor surveys, making of maps, determining the various natural resources of the country, and other items.

C. The Peace Corps

1. Background

Peace Corps/Colombia is one of the oldest and largest Peace Corps programs in the world. Since the arrival of the

first Volunteers on September 8, 1961, over 60 groups have come to Colombia to work in a wide variety of fields, and today about 700 Volunteers are located in every region of the country. This is the third largest program in the world, exceeded only by India and the Philippines. At the present time almost all Volunteers are university graduates and a number already have Masters Degrees.

2. Programs and Goals

The main goal of the Peace Corps is to collaborate with those who wish to learn how to do more for themselves. One of the main efforts in this direction lies in community development, and over half the Volunteers are working in this field. They are assigned singly and in teams to both rural and urban sites and concentrate on leadership development, community organization, literacy, recreation activities, cooperative and health education, as well as projects such as school construction, aqueducts and health centers. Programs are carried out, and priorities are assigned in close collaboration with a variety of Colombian agencies, many of which also provide counterparts to work with and assist the Volunteers.

Education is another major Peace Corps activity. Around 100 Volunteers work in the field of primary education and specifically in the utilization of educational television. This project, which is a joint effort between the Colombian Ministry of Education, the Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps, has over the last four years enabled thousands of school children living in rural areas to have the benefit of first-class instruction in a large variety of subjects. Volunteers are also working at the secondary school and university levels, particularly in the training of new teachers in the use of modern teaching methods in biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics. Another group is concentrating on work with Colombians teaching English as a foreign language. A small group of registered nurses are engaged in the training of auxiliary health personnel in several Colombian hospitals.

The third major component of Peace Corps programs in Colombia is agriculture. Emphasis is placed on the introduction of modern farming techniques, particularly to the small farmer. Volunteers, working as extension agents and in collaboration with Colombian agricultural agencies, are helping to diversify crops, increase yields, improve marketing procedures and up-grade poultry and cattle operations.

3. Organization and Administration

Volunteers serve for a period of two years, after completing an initial three months' program of intensive training. Some Volunteers sign up for an additional year to continue important projects. Volunteers serve without a regular salary; they receive a modest living allowance (usually about \$100 a month) to cover expenses of housing, food and incidentals. At the end of their 2-year tour they receive a lump sum of about \$2,000 which many use to further their education.

The Peace Corps staff in Colombia numbers around 30, and has a central office in Bogotá as well as nine regional offices in various cities in the country. Each regional office has a Director and in Bogotá, in addition to the Country Director and his staff, there is a group of program specialists who provide technical support for the various projects. The staff also includes six physicians and a nurse whose principal responsibility is Volunteer health. The Peace Corps staff is an integral part of the U.S. Country Team in Colombia, and enjoys the support of the Ambassador and his staff, with whom it works in close collaboration toward the success of U.S. activities in Colombia.

IV. TELLING THE U.S. STORY

The United States Information Service is the spokesman for America in Colombia. USIS makes clear what the U.S. does --- and also what it is. Of principal concern, of course, is the U.S. role in Colombia, a role largely defined in terms of the Alliance for Progress. This encompasses an imposing program of U.S. assistance to Colombia, but also a keen U.S. interest in Colombia's own development efforts. Thus USIS seeks to call attention to the impressive work of AID, and to Colombian self-help measures as well.

A. The Information Section

1. The rhythm of the information operation is set by production of a daily press and radio bulletin, compiled from a wireless file transmitted by USIA-Washington, and from locally-developed materials. The bulletin is sent to all major newspapers, magazines and radio outlets, a total of about 650 recipients.

2. This might be called the "hard news" of the USIS operation, concentrating on current developments of a policy interest; but magazine features, written in Washington or in Bogotá, are also placed. The Information Section has an offset printing plant for the production of pamphlets and other material -- a bi-monthly newspaper, for example, is published by USIS on Alliance for Progress developments. The Information Section also has an art department which designs exhibits and posters on themes ranging from early American autos to the peace talks in Paris.

3. The Information Section provides Colombian media with a steady flow of radio and TV programs and motion pictures, sent by USIA-Washington or produced here. Some 200 radio stations in Colombia use USIS material; 11 shows are produced weekly by the post for the major radio networks, and some 65 Voice of America programs are transcribed and distributed for use by Colombia stations.

4. USIS has a library of some 500 films and 60 projectors available for loan to Colombian organizations. A conservative estimate is that some three and a half million Colombians saw USIS films during 1967. The vast majority of these films were produced in the United States and range from the President's latest press conference to the life of a Montana cowboy. The USIS movie crew makes an average of four feature films each year, as well as making numerous news clips for television. Television reaches a broad and important audience (there are an estimated 600,000 sets in Colombia); the two networks use an average of twenty fully-prepared USIS programs each month, in addition to the news clips.

B. Cultural Affairs

5. The Cultural Section's responsibilities include the administration of the State Department's Exchange of Persons and Cultural Presentations, a student affairs program, and book publishing and distribution programs. It also supervises the Bi-National Centers, of which there are 14 in Colombia. Through exchange programs, more than 100 Colombians are sent to the U.S. each year on grants; more than half of these are students and teachers in the famed Fulbright program, administered by a Bi-National Commission under the supervision of USIS. Other students as well as leaders in many professions are sent for short-term tours of the United States, in programs designed to show them first-hand the American way of life.

6. Performances and workshops by American performers are given in Colombia under USIS supervision. The range is from jazz to ballet. Most of these tours are sponsored by the State Department in Washington, with USIS handling the performances in Colombia. At the same time USIS, through the Bi-National Centers, has itself sponsored appearances by American performers. Shows of American paintings are often held by the Bi-National Center.

7. Student affairs have become a significant branch of cultural operations; the USIS role is to "reach" this important segment through personal contact, or through presentations of speakers, films, or exhibits. Students are also among the chief recipients of USIS-provided books of which several thousand, in English and in Spanish, are distributed each year in Colombia. The range is vast, but a general heading of Americana may suffice. The books might be used to open the way for a university course on American poetry or be given individually to contacts as presentation items. USIS also underwrites the printing of several titles of program importance each year, to be sold commercially.

8. All of the "tools" of the USIS trade -- the films, the press releases, the travel grants, the books, the personal contacts -- are designed to provide Colombians, at all levels, with an understanding of the United States.

C. Bi-National Centers

9. Perhaps the most direct, personal and effective single way in which friendship for the U.S. is engendered is through the Bi-National Centers. The Centros Colombo-Americano are non-profit organizations operating under Colombian charter; the Boards of Directors are made up of Colombian citizens and resident Americans. USIS furnishes the Director and other key personnel for the larger Centers, and assists all the Centers in their programs. One of the main activities is English teaching (Spanish is also taught in cities with large American population) and the Centers also maintain a large lending library of books in Spanish and English -- often a Center's library is the largest in the community. Centers also sponsor a broad range of cultural events: art exhibits, both by American and Colombian painters; musical concerts, radio programs, dramatic productions, photography contests, discussion groups, lectures and dances. Everyone is welcomed in a Bi-National Center. The tuition for the English courses, which is modest, is the basic source of income.

10. Bi-National Centers are located in all major Colombian cities. The largest, of course, is the Center in Bogotá, at Avenida 19 and Carrera 3. It is considered one of the best in the world, both for its modern physical plant and its programs. The staff includes an American Director, Director of Courses, and Student Affairs Officer. There are more than thirty administrative and program employees, and some sixty teachers. The teaching program reaches 3,500 students, the majority of them middle-class working men and women and university students.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

HIS EXCELLENCY CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO

Official Liberal; born in Bogotá on April 12, 1908; graduated as Doctor of Law and Political and Social Sciences from the National University in Bogotá, 1930. He married Cecilia de la Fuente in 1933 and in the same year was elected to the House of Representatives. In 1934 he introduced an agrarian reform bill and the following year, as the President of the House of Representatives, initiated measures for fiscal and constitutional reforms. From 1938 to 1942 he served as Minister of Finance under President Eduardo Santos. In 1942 he was elected Senator from Cundinamarca. He headed the Colombian delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 which created the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and in 1945 was the Colombian representative before the First General Assembly of the United States.

Lleras was President of the Liberal Party Directorate from 1948 to 1952. In 1958 he was elected to the Senate and became the sole leader of the Liberal Party. After a year of studies abroad he returned to Colombia in 1960 and was elected alternate President or "President Designate" of the Republic. He was re-elected Senator in both 1962 and 1966 and accepted the nomination for the Presidency in November 1965. He was elected on May 1, 1966, taking office on August 7 to succeed Conservative President Guillermo León Valencia.

Lleras thus became the third President elected under the National Front System.

Lleras is fluent in both French and English.

YOUR FREE TIME

Sightseeing

One can find his way around Bogotá comparatively easily if he keeps in mind the relatively simple (and usually - but not always - uniform) plan on which the city is constructed. The streets which run roughly north and south, that are parallel to the mountains against which the city is nestled, are called carreras. These are numbered consecutively starting with the Carrera 1. Thus, the higher the number of the carrera the further it is from the mountains. The streets which run roughly east and west, that is, perpendicular to the mountains and at right angles to the carreras, are called calles. These are also numbered consecutively, increasing as one goes north. To the south of Calle 1, the streets also are numbered consecutively but with the addition of the word sur after it. However, unless one has specific business in the south of the city, he will not generally need to worry about anything south of Calle 3 or 4. There are some exceptions to this plan involving a few diagonal streets, called either avenidas, diagonales or transversales, and a very few streets bear names rather than numbers, but these should not be serious impediments in roughly locating where one is.

Addresses are written with the name of the carrera or calle on which the site is located. The street numbers are written in two hyphenated numbers, the first indicating the nearest, and lowest numbered, cross street (calle or carrera as the case may be). For example, Carrera 7, No. 28-60 is located on Carrera 7 between Calles 28 and 29. Similarly, Calle 11, No. 4-92 is located on Calle 11 between Carreras 4 and 5. The last number indicates the number of meters from the corner to the entrance.

The following are some suggestions for interesting sightseeing trips that can be taken on foot in the center of the city in a short time:

An interesting sightseeing trip can start at the Plaza de Bolivar, which extends from Carrera 7 to Carrera 8 and from Calles 10 to 11. On the south of the Plaza is the Capitolio, or Congress building, and on the east side the Archbishop's Palace and the National Cathedral. In the northeast corner of the Plaza is a small colonial museum, 20 de Julio de 1810, and the old Casa del Florero, where the war for independence started. The Presidential Palace

of San Carlos is on Calle 10 between Carreras 5 and 6. Directly across the street from the entrance to San Carlos Palace, on Calle 10, is the Colon Theater. Nearby, at Calle 11 and Carrera 5 is the mint (Casa de la Moneda). On Carrera 6 between Calles 9 and 10 is the Colonial Museum. This is one of the most perfect examples of Colonial architecture in Bogotá. It contains many art treasures of the 17th and 18th century. East of the Plaza is a wealth of historical and beautiful sights. The streets east and south of the Capitolio have been carefully preserved to retain their colonial exteriors, although the buildings are modernized within. This small section of the ancient city is a photographer's delight; the best shot is the Camarin del Carmen at Calle 9 and Carrera 5.

Proceeding west from the Capitolio, one finds an interesting market at Calle 10 and Carrera 10. Many homemade objects are sold there, as are animal and vegetable products used as local medicines. Going north on Carrera 10, you turn right at Calle 13 and proceed east on to Avenida Jiménez. Along the way stretches the major financial district of Colombia, including the Stock Exchange and the National City Bank at Carrera 9, and the Coffee Bank which houses the world famous National Coffee Growers Federation at Carrera 8. Opposite the Coffee Bank, in the underground passageway on this square, there are frequently interesting exhibits open to the public.

Adjoining the Departmental Government Building in the east is the old San Francisco Church, one of the gems of Bogotá's architecture. Directly opposite is the Bank of the Republic which sells emeralds, but transactions are conducted only by prior appointment. The Santander Park on Carrera 7, just north of the Bank of the Republic, is sometimes a center of political activities. Across Avenida Jiménez from the Bank is the El Tiempo newspaper building. Further toward the mountains on Avenida Jiménez are the Hotel Continental and the main offices of the El Espectador newspaper.

Avenida Jiménez follows a winding course, having once been an open stream coming down from the mountain. Proceeding east, along the avenue, one first reaches the Quinta de Bolivar on a hillside overlooking the city. It is open to the public. Bolivar made his home in this beautiful spot for a time. The area east of the Quinta at the foot of Mt. Monserrate is a favorite outing place for the poor people on Sundays. Monserrate can be reached by funicular railroad and cable car. It is fun to go up in one type of vehicle and return in the other. The two lines operate independently so that a one-way ticket should be bought before ascending; the return ticket can be bought before descending. The main feature on top of Monserrate is the magnificent view of the city and church - soft drinks can be bought there, but the food is not especially recommended.

National Museum

Carrera 7 No. 28-60. Ethnological, archeological and historical exhibits. Building used to be a prison. Open: Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Gold Museum

Carrera 6 with Calle 16 (Parque Santander). Fascinating collection of gold jewelry and artifacts from Chibcha and pre-Indian civilization. Open: Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sundays and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

La Casa del Florero

Carrera 7 with Calle 11. Site of Declaration of Independency by Bogotá's Cabildo. Now restored as interesting museum and example of colonial architecture. Open: Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Museo de Arte Colonial

Carrera 6 No. 9-77. Collection of Spanish colonial art; the building is an excellent example of colonial architecture. Open: Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

La Casa de la Moneda

Calle 11 No. 4-93. Building has housed the Mint since the eighteenth century, and there is a museum of numismatic matters including coins of different eras. The building itself is considered by many as the most beautiful colonial building in Bogotá. Open: Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Quinta y Museo de Bolivar

Avenida Jiménez with Carrera 1. The country house where Bolivar lived for a time, now converted into a museum. Open: Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

<u>Monserrate</u>	Mountain and church overlooking the city. Open: Funicular operated only on holidays and Sundays from 5:00 a.m. until crowds disperse. Cable cars operate every half hour from 6:00 a.m. every day.
<u>El Callejón</u> (Art gallery)	Calle 16 #6-34
<u>Arte Moderno</u>	Calle 24 #6-70. Gallery of Modern Art.

Churches of Special Interest

Iglesia San Francisco	Carrera 7 Avenida Jiménez
Iglesia San Ignacio	Calle 10 #6-35
Iglesia la Veracruz	Calle 16 #7-15
Iglesia La Tercera	Carrera 7 Calle 16
Iglesia Las Nieves	Calle 20 #6-10
La Catedral	Carrera 6 #8-75, Plaza de Bolívar
Iglesia San Diego	Carrera 7 #26-37, in front of Hotel Tequendama

Currency Exchange: The exchange rate is currently _____ pesos to the U.S. dollar. Your check on a U.S. bank will be accepted by the Embassy and converted into local currency at the prevailing exchange rate if you are a U.S. Government employee on official business. The Hotel Tequendama will also exchange dollars for pesos for a small commission.

Dollars should be converted before shopping, since U.S. currency should not be tendered at shops or restaurants.

What to Buy: The best buys are silver jewelry, the relatively inexpensive brass and gold replicas of Chibcha designs, of course, Colombia's famous emeralds (but these are not cheap), estribos (replicas of the stirrups used by the Spanish conquistadores), the ruanas (the native Andean shawl, or poncho), and Indian curiosities of various kinds.

Some Recommended Shops:

<u>Cocodrilo:</u>	Calle 59 #13-10. Souvenirs and gifts typically Colombian, such as ruanas, silver jewelry, brass, Indian curiosities, paintings, estribos, etc.
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<u>Joyeria Kraus:</u>	Carrera 7 #21-63 - Fine jewelry and emeralds.
<u>Hotel Tequendama:</u> (Gift Shop)	Souvenirs and typical items.
<u>Bejarano:</u>	Calle 11 #2-87 - Silver
<u>Florentina:</u>	Carrera 13 #40-59 - Silver
<u>Medina:</u>	Calle 12 #5-93 - Silver
<u>Libreria de Luz:</u>	Plaza de Bolivar, side of Cathedral -Antiques.
<u>Tropicana:</u>	Souvenirs and typical items. Lobby of Tequendama Residencias.
<u>Cacique:</u>	Carrera 7 #24-13 - typical items.
<u>Cascabel</u>	Carrera 9 #23-49 or Calle 77 #15-28

Postal Facilities

Postage via international air mail is at a rate of Peso \$2.00/70 grams to the United States. Stamps may be purchased at the Hotel Tequendama or Tierra Mar y Aire next to the Embassy where letters may also be mailed.

List of Preferred Restaurants

Dancing and entertainment are offered at the Grills, entertainment only at the Grill Restaurants.

RESTAURANTS

Chalet Suizo	Carrera 7 #21-51	El Pollo Dorado	Carrera 9 #17-38
Gran Vatel	Calle 24 #5-83	Koster	Calle 35 #15-32
La Posada del Mar (Spanish)	Carrera 7 #69-53	Verner's	Calle 25 #12-23
D'Antonio	Carrera 9 #16-53	Eduardo	Carrera 11 #89-43

GRILLS

Monserrate Room	Hotel Tequendama	La Pampa	Carrera 13 #58-63
Chez-Dédy	Carrera 7 #27-76	Grill Europa	Calle 15 #8-80
San Martin	Carrera 13 #27-98	As de Copas	Carrera 13 #59-24

GRILL RESTAURANTS (Entertainment, no dancing)

Balalaika	Carrera 15 #32-82	La Zambra	Carrera 3 #74-32
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TRANSPORTATION

For those who wish to go out on their own, taxis are recommended. These are quite inexpensive. All taxis are metered, although some will hire themselves out for about 25 (30 on Sunday) pesos per hour. Taxis cost one peso more than the meter reading on Sundays and holidays and every week day after 8:00 p.m.

TIPPING

Ten percent of the bill is the usual tip given to waiters. It is not customary to tip taxi drivers, but many people will tip to the nearest full peso if the meter reads a fraction of a peso.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Pickpockets and Thieves

It is recommended that you exercise every precaution against theft; particularly do not leave valuables exposed in hotel rooms, vehicles, or on the person. Please have your valuables stored in the safe maintained by your control officer.

Pickpocketing, wristwatch snatching, and purse snatching are common crimes in Bogotá.

Electric Current

Hotel Tequendama operates on 110 AC and 60 cycles.

Clothing

Dress in Bogotá as you do in the U.S. Dark business suit is the usual evening wear.

MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS

While in general there are no major hazards in Bogotá, normal health precautions should be observed. This is particularly true since the altitude of Bogotá, 8,600 feet, may adversely affect your physical well-being, through lowering of your resistance to disease, and lead to early fatigue and digestive upsets. Certain systems of the body, particularly the cardiovascular, may be affected by the altitude. Additionally, inadequate rest may eventually lead to health problems.

Be careful of your eating habits. Try to avoid restaurants which are not well established or recommended. Fruit peelings should not be eaten unless either cooked or thoroughly washed. Bogotá's water is reported by the local health authorities to be safe for drinking. However, as there have been many cases of amoebic infection, it is recommended that boiled water (coffee, tea) or bottled drinks be used. Pasteurized milk is available in Bogotá and is considered safe.

Most Colombian doctors speak English. Many of them have done post-graduate work and/or internship at U.S. or European Medical Centers. If you need a doctor or dentist, please call or visit the Embassy where a list of reputable doctors is maintained.

Hotel Tequendama has on hand oxygen tanks with masks. Additionally, the Embassy has these available for those who might be bothered by the altitude.