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# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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**Monday, 14 August 2000**

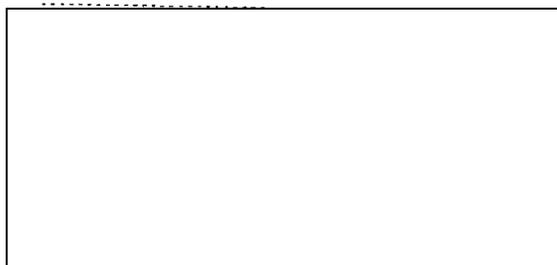
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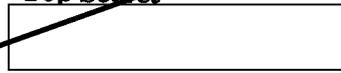
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**AMERICAS**

**Colombia:**  
*Analytic Perspective*

**Rebels May Try To Mar Positive Reception**

President Pastrana and most mainstream Colombians welcome President Clinton's visit to Cartagena on 30 August as recognition of the many challenges they face and as a capstone to the closer partnership produced by Plan Colombia. Polls indicate that Colombians regard improved relations with Washington as Pastrana's greatest achievement—and one of the rare points on which there is consensus among the major parties.

**Undercurrents of Concern, Resentment**

Many Colombians see the aid package as a sign that the US is willing to share responsibility for the drug problem. Nonetheless, the Pastrana administration is sensitive to criticism that Plan Colombia emphasizes US counternarcotics objectives at the expense of Colombia's fundamental socioeconomic needs.

— Increasingly, Bogota is stressing social development initiatives embodied in Plan Colombia, especially with potential European donors.

Some Colombians worry that aggressive, US-backed counterdrug efforts will provoke greater violence by the guerrillas. This may tempt Pastrana to give in to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's call for a halt to the spraying of coca fields as part of a cease-fire deal.

— In addition, the guerrillas' past behavior suggests they may try to mar the President's visit with outbursts of propaganda and a show of military force elsewhere in the country, including attacks at counternarcotics bases housing US citizens.