

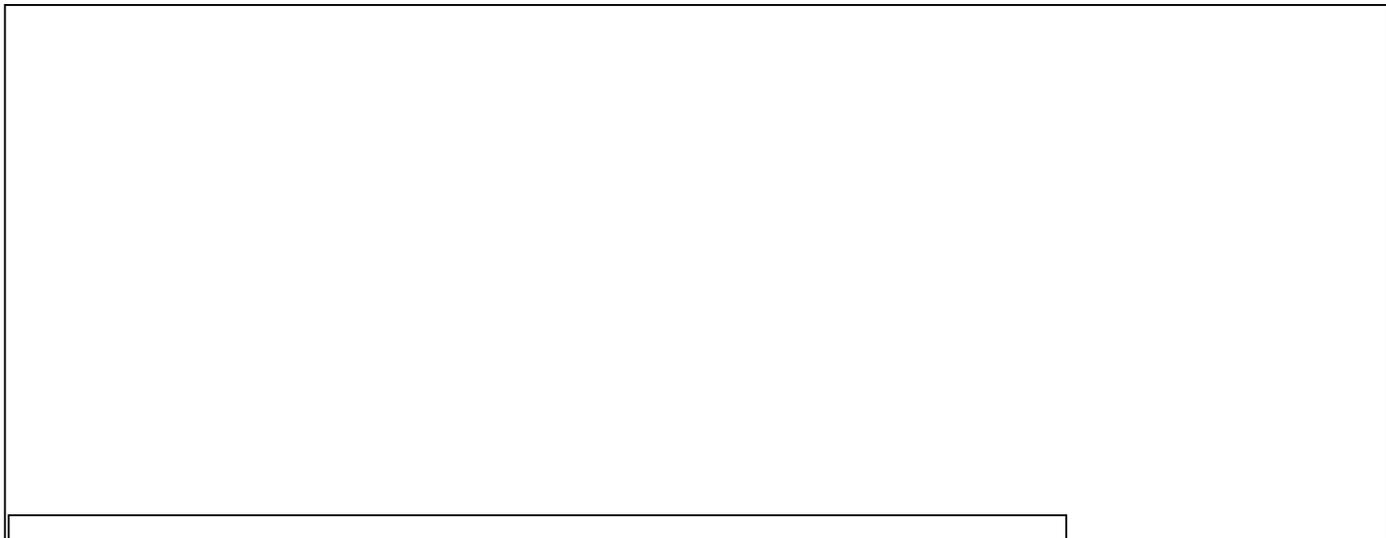
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Friday, 26 February 1999



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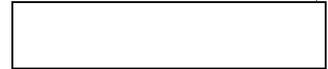
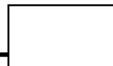


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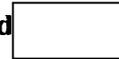




Sense of the Community Memorandum

Colombia:

***Despeje* Extended but Peace Talks Suspended**



Just days before the *despeje*—or the demilitarized zone—was scheduled to expire early this month, President Pastrana extended it until early May. Guerrilla negotiators, meanwhile, unilaterally have suspended peace talks until 20 April—leaving only two weeks to exchange views until the *despeje* expires.



Pastrana  has said this would be the last extension unless agreement is reached on an agenda and venue for formal talks.

