

COMMUNICATION ISSUED BY THE FACILITATING AND VERIFICATION COMMISSIONS FOR
THE PEACE PROCESS WITH THE JAIME BATEMAN CAYÓN MOVEMENT

11 April 1996

1. It is publicly known that at the start of the peace process between the government and the Jaime Bateman Cayón Movement, an “initial demilitarised zone” was agreed and defined in the municipality of Miranda, Cauca, which will be in force until 30 May 1996 (communications dated 27 December 1995 and 8 February 1996). This zone aims to create the necessary conditions for a first phase of negotiations. As such, the parties solemnly undertake to respect the zone and not unilaterally interrupt the negotiations.
2. The events of the previous days (29 March – 1 April 1996) have caused serious difficulties in the aforementioned demilitarised zone and have altered the circumstances required for the normal development of the talks.
3. Conscious of the importance of this peace process, we urge the secretariat of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*, FARC) to fully cooperate, withdrawing its members from the zone and fully leaving the negotiating parties at liberty.
4. Similarly, we request that the national army also withdraw from the zone under the previously agreed conditions.
5. On behalf of the people living in the zone, we request that all parties involved in this problem, in line with current international agreements, respect the integrity and legitimate rights of the civil population and heed calls by the public to defend its peace process.
6. We express our firm commitment to continue supporting this process. We are willing to continue our facilitation and verification work to allow the government and the Jaime Bateman Cayón Movement to continue with the negotiations in line with the planned schedule.

Miranda, Cauca

Facilitating Commission

Verification Commission