

COMMUNICATION BY PRESIDENT ANDRÉS PASTRANA AND MANUEL MARULANDA OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (CAQUETANIA AGREEMENT)

2 May 1999

Communication to the public:

1. Under the agreement reached on 9 July 1998, we have today met to take stock of the work that has been carried out so far in the dialogue process under way between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército Popular, FARC–EP*).
2. After an open, cordial and sincere analysis, we found that specific and significant progress had been made on the complex path for building reconciliation among all Colombians.
3. We are aware that the peace process requires efforts, analysis, understanding and commitments to reach agreements on the economic, political and social transformations to allow the construction of a state founded on social justice, with space for everyone and where everyone is respected.
4. After evaluating the serious and responsible work undertaken by the spokespeople, we have concluded that we are close to reaching a full agreement for a common agenda. Given that the deadline for talks set by the national government will pass on 5 May, and once again reaffirming the irrenunciable political desire of the parties to find a political solution to the conflict, we agree to the initiation of a period of negotiation and dialogue on the points of the common agenda that have already been agreed on 6 May. These points will be communicated by the spokespeople, notwithstanding any progress made in these areas before this date.
5. The parties have committed to implementing the agreement signed on 28 April between the heads of the country’s various political forces, the heads of the Congress of the Republic, FARC–EP and the national government through the High Commissioner for Peace.

6. We would like to call the attention of the Colombian people and the international community to the fact that obtaining peace is a commitment that involves all Colombians and requires the necessary time to lay solid foundations for genuine and long-lasting peace.
7. In this respect, by common agreement, we establish an international support commission to act as a verifying body to overcome any obstacles that may arise.

Signed in Caquetania, 2 May 1999

- Andrés Pastrana Arango
- Manuel Marulanda Vélez

**Source:** Permanent Civil Society Peace Assembly (Colombia) (website)