

COMMUNICATION BY THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA AND THE
GOVERNMENT ON THEIR VISIT TO EUROPE

COMMUNICATION OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR DIALOGUE IN SWITZERLAND (I)

19 February 2000

Following our visit to Italy and Switzerland, we wish to inform the public of our experiences and progress in recent days.

On 16 February, we met with the presidents of the commissions of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, which, headed by its president, provided a comprehensive overview of the country's political and judicial system and its fight against corruption.

This provided a good opportunity to exchange opinions and explain Colombia's peace process to them, which they are following with interest and which they regard as having made successful progress. They expressed their surprise that the world does not have objective awareness of this reality. They also expressed their support for the process.

This gave rise to a proposal to appoint a commission of European members of parliament to communicate the steps being taken in Colombia to achieve national reconciliation, in order to support the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation in its role of providing solutions to our social problems.

The trip to Italy and the Vatican was extremely productive. We then travelled to Switzerland, where we heard the experiences of the Swiss people in the areas of agricultural policy, the country's market social economy, economic relations with Colombia, the organisation of the private business sector, the operation of the bank system, the rating of risk in the country and the role played by political parties and unions in the life of this friendly nation.

The meetings involving the Secretary of State, Franz von Daniken, and the president of the International Red Cross Committee, Jakob Kellenberger, and his work team were particularly important, with a comprehensive and sincere discussion of issues related to international

humanitarian law and human rights. We also specifically analysed the different positions on personal freedom in Colombia.

The main outcome of these meetings was that the International Red Cross Committee will advise the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation as required by the parties on matters regarding international humanitarian law and human rights.

Por el Gobierno Nacional:

Víctor G. Ricardo,

Alto Comisionado para la Paz

Luis Norberto Guerra,

Vicepresidente Cámara de Representantes.

Fabio Valencia Cossio