

COMMUNICATION NO. 5 BY THE ROUNDTABLE FOR DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION

3 December 1999

Communication by the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation regarding the disclosure of information on the peace process.

The public has the need and right to receive full and objective information about the events of the peace process.

As such, the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation, in the presence of the National Thematic Committee, agreed on 25 October that “to keep the public duly informed, we have agreed joint communications of the meetings will be issued in order to express the agreements that are reached in a single voice”.

For this purpose, the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation has decided to create a special information and press office (NOTIPAZ), reporting directly to the roundtable to guarantee all media equal access to communications and other information arising from the process.

Notwithstanding the above, the representatives of the various media organisations will be invited to attend meetings to provide information on the development of the peace process. Representatives will be entitled to obtain statements from each of the parties and will benefit from the media entitlements established by the heads of NOTIPAZ.

The source of the process and the party disclosing information to the press, either in communications or in responses to questions at press conferences, is the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation.

NOTIPAZ will be managed by the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation and will be made up of figures chosen by mutual agreement.

The objective will be to have unified criteria regarding the information that must be provided to the media in order to guarantee the transparency of information and objective coverage of the process, without becoming superficial or sensationalist.

The information produced will involve images, photographs, audio and texts, which will be distributed to all media organisations.

The information will be gathered by the NOTIPAZ television, radio and press team. As such, media organisations that are unable to attend will be entitled to receive all the information produced as a result of the process.

In this way, we reiterate that all media organisations requiring information will be provided with access under equal conditions with the same treatment and quality.

The information produced by the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation and the National Thematic Committee via the public audiences is of national interest and we hope it will be communicated by the public and private media organisations.

On Sundays, every 15 days, between 2000 and 2030, a peace programme lasting up to half an hour will be broadcast on the television channel Señal Colombia and the radio station Radiodifusora Nacional.

Signatories

For the government:

- VICTOR G. RICARDO (High Commissioner for Peace)
- CAMILO GOMEZ ALZATE
- FABIO VALENCIA COSSIO
- PEDRO GOMEZ BARRERO
- JUAN GABRIEL URIBE
- JOSÉ GONZALO FORERO DELGADILLO

For FARC-EP

- RAÚL REYES, FARC-EP Spokesperson
- JOAQUÍN GOMEZ
- FABIAN RAMÍREZ