

Nohra Puyana de Pastrana

✓ cc: Melanne
File
Colombia

Santafé de Bogotá, November 3rd, 1998

Mrs.
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
United States of America

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

On behalf of my children, my husband and myself, I wanted to thank you for the hospitality during our stay in Washington. For us, it was a great pleasure as well as a great honor to have been guests of the illustrious and famous Blair House. Moreover, the State Dinner that you and your husband hosted for us will stay not only in our memory but also in our hearts.

These wonderful days are a reflection of a new beginning in the relationship between our two countries.

I also want to thank you for the offer that you made during our meeting. Your support in all the ambitious programs that I presented to you is crucial in order to embark in the different phases of the process of implementation. My staff is ready and very eager to work with the person that you will assign from your office in this process.

Your help will bring hope to the people of Colombia that are in such desperate need.

Again thank you very much for all your special kindness.

Sincerely Yours,

Nohra de Pastrana

file Colombia

October 27, 1998

TO: Melanne

FROM: Theresa *DK for TL*

SUBJECT: Meeting with the First Lady of Colombia Nohra Puyana de Pastrana

Mary Louise Oates arranged an excellent meeting for us today with the First Lady of Colombia, Nohra Puyana de Pastrana, which demonstrated the impact the *Vital Voices* Initiative is having throughout the hemisphere. Mrs. Pastrana shared her commitment to advance the status of Colombian women and her desire to incorporate these democracy building efforts under the *Vital Voices* umbrella.

We have a unique opportunity to garner support for this initiative. The First Lady spoke about the promises she and her husband made while on the campaign trail. Their campaign platform was based on the basic premise that the voices of women are vital to the peace process and must be heard. Her words "Peace has to start in our own homes" reminded me of the language used by our own First Lady. I think that we have a great friend in Mrs. Pastrana.

Mrs. Pastrana is looking forward to her meeting with Mrs. Clinton tomorrow. She will ask Mrs. Clinton for help in creating a *Vital Voices* movement in Colombia. She has plans underway for a two day conference in February for "political wives." She seemed enthusiastic about our suggestion to expand the list of invitees to include a broader range of women leaders from throughout society, including potential private sector partners. She will seek U.S. assistance in shaping this conference and will likely invite Mrs. Clinton to attend and energize the participants. She would be honored if Mrs. Clinton participated via satellite or sent a video message. We provided Mrs. Pastrana's staff with information about the *Vital Voices* Initiative that they will use as they plan their event.

Mrs. Pastrana prepared a remarkable presentation about her "peace train" of medical supplies, including an operating room, x-ray laboratory, and dentist's office. This train will run through the Atlantic coast of Colombia bringing medical treatment to people in some of the poorest, war torn regions of the country. She will present this idea to each of the government ministers and eventually expand the train to include cars that supply communication and educational training. Mrs. Pastrana would like to link this train to *Vital Voices* and seeks our support. We will work with our private sector partners who may be willing and able to get this project off the ground.

Mrs. Pastrana is very interested in promoting public awareness about the issues that affect women. She spoke about educating children by teaching values and spreading the word that domestic violence will not be tolerated. We are already working with the Discovery Channel to create *Vital Voices* public service announcements that will run throughout the region. Unfortunately, there is no time for us to arrange a meeting with Discovery or Univision while Mrs. Pastrana is in Washington. Once these messages are completed, we will send them to Mrs. Pastrana so she can work with local television networks to get them on the air. We will also follow-up and share existing public service announcements that educate youth about the dangers of drugs.

Mrs. Pastrana was intrigued by our explanation of SBA's online business system for women that was introduced in Spanish at *Vital Voices*. We will send along more information as this program will be an excellent tool for encouraging women to start their own businesses. We will also share information about this meeting with Ambassador Hrinak in Bolivia to encourage her and Ginger Quiroga, the wife of Bolivia's Vice President, to link up and collaborate on plans for upcoming events. One other idea, though we did not discuss this with her, is to include Mrs. Pastrana in the *Vital Voices* roundtable we proposed for Mrs. Clinton's November trip to El Salvador. We could work with USIS to have this event broadcast throughout the hemisphere.

Mrs. Pastrana was grateful to us for arranging an action packed schedule for her visit to Washington. She has meeting arranged with AID, the Inter-American Development Bank, HHS, and the Department of Education. She will have the opportunity to share her ideas for microcredit projects, public diplomacy campaigns, and her women's agenda with many of our Interagency Council contacts.