

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

To conclude the research, the analysis that the author had provided in regards to the United States countermeasures was done through the strategic framework of Plan Colombia, explained in accordance to the theoretical framework of Counterinsurgency Warfare. Although the plan was initially intended to be an extended application of the US objective contained within the National Drug Control Strategy for drug eradication efforts at its source, the author justified the administration's shift in orientation of its policy by using the occurrence of September 11th, 2001 as the turning point that changed the prioritization of the Plan.

The United States endeavor of counterinsurgency enacted through Plan Colombia may indeed be considered as an indirect engagement. The plan majorly is an application for security and economic assistance provided towards the host nation as a respect for the nation's recognized sovereignty over its domestic insurgent challenges. Rather than placing heavy dependence on military force to engage in an all-out offensive operation against the FARC, the US took a subtle approach of filling the institutional gap of Colombia in order to enhance their capability in attending the economic and social instability that gave rise to the group.

In terms of its implementation, the author is able to correlate all of the components contained within Plan Colombia and its relevancies in accordance to counterinsurgency as a theory. Firstly, an evident demonstration of such conclusion derives from the adaptability of Plan Colombia implementation towards the shifting nature of FARC in its affiliation with illegal drug operation. The initial counterproductivity prior the shift of orientation of the US policy paved way for a premise that calls for re-establishment of control and legitimacy by the Colombian government in order to reduce FARC's control over areas with rich resources -including areas for coca cultivation – that consequently would provide ease to perform eradication operations. Plan Colombia was then well adjusted to provide the Colombian government and its military with the authority and assistance it required to conduct an offensive measure against FARC aiming to not only weakens the group but also in securing their once held areas from their presence.

The centrality of 'hearts and minds' in the discourse of counterinsurgency was also well applied through the US fund appropriations allocated for alternative economic development. The function of this aspect of Plan Colombia was to perform the intent of diminishing the reliance of the rural population from the dependence of coca cultivation caused by social and economic instability. The author was able to conclude that this effort is perceived to be an attempt to gain popular support for Colombian government, re-legitimizing them as the legal institution that is capable of addressing the economic and social problem faced by its people. In consequence, not only will it eliminate the dependence behavior of

the local population on coca cultivation, it would also mean the exposure of FARC insurgent group without the source of its claimed cause and its financial revenue from the drug business.

As of the military aspect of Plan Colombia, the author finds that it was implemented in accordance to the theoretical framework in a sense that it was limited to provide a pathway for political progress. The United States contributed in supporting the Colombian government's democratic security policy agenda that sets goals for territorial consolidation of the 40% areas within the grasp of FARC insurgent group. No direct deployment of US troops was done unless for the purposes to provide training, advisory assistance and logistical equipping to enhance the capability of Colombian military and national law enforcement forces to perform their role in the conquest for said national territory consolidation as well as providing public security measures.

The adaptability of Plan Colombia in facing the shifting nature of insurgent groups along with the efforts of filling the incapacities of the government in responding towards social instabilities was all a process that would lead to an end goal for DDR. Deductions of local support, its mean of revenue, its controlled areas are all a process to restrict the movement of the groups, imposing them to comply with negotiation with the government, in hopes to reach an agreement to fulfil the demand of the group, who themselves are the byproduct of social injustice. The author found that Plan Colombia had succeeded in demobilizing the AUC but it is unfortunate that the same could not be said about FARC, as their compliance with the government was not within the timeframe

this research was set on. This was due to the reason that Colombian administration did not include the focus of negotiation with the group and instead has been consistent with the goal of territorial consolidation that led to the group's willingness to comply with the government under the new administration in the following years.

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