

Senate Resolution No. 36

Introduced by Senators Hayden, Perata, and Vasconcellos

Relative to Plan Colombia.

WHEREAS, President Clinton traveled on August 30, 2000, to Colombia to inaugurate Plan Colombia, a one billion three hundred million dollars (\$1,300,000,000) war on drugs initiative that will equip three battalions supported by American advisors and helicopters and other weaponry; and

WHEREAS, The counter-narcotics war in Colombia cannot be separated from an enduring civil war that has continued for 40 years and has claimed 35,000 lives; and

WHEREAS, The Chief of Colombia's Armed Forces, General Fernando Tapias, has stated recently that "there will be peace, but first there will be war," and "with or without Plan Colombia, things are going to get worse"; and

WHEREAS, Officials in Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Venezuela, and Brazil have expressed concerns that the war on drugs in Colombia may cause a wider conflict; and

WHEREAS, Previous American antidrug efforts in Colombia, including assistance in the arrests of Cali cartel leaders, did not deter the continuance of drug activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, The United States war on drugs is being increasingly militarized at the expense of investing resources in prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The United States drug war has failed to reduce the production, distribution, and consumption of dangerous and illegal drugs in California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate expresses deep concern over the possibility that escalation of the United States drug war in Colombia and Latin America will become a quagmire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls on the United States Government to focus the priority of Plan Colombia on sustainable economic development alternatives to drug production and trafficking, and serving to facilitate peace talks among the armed combatants; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls on the United States Government to give greater emphasis to prevention, treatment, education, and economic opportunity than to war in Latin America as a means of



addressing drug consumption in California and the United States;
and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President, Vice President, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Senate Resolution No. 36 read and adopted by the Senate September 1, 2000.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate

