



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

I am writing to provide you with an overview of the findings of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) into the conduct of United States Secret Service (USSS) personnel in Cartagena, Colombia prior to the President's visit in April of 2012. As you know, the DHS OIG does not disclose investigative reports nor do we discuss them publicly. However, I would like to request a time when I can provide you with a personal briefing on the scope of the investigation and a summary of our general findings.

During this investigation, we interviewed or attempted to interview two hundred and fifty-one USSS personnel and reviewed an array of records including travel records, hotel registries, and country clearance cables, personnel assignments and USSS and U.S. Embassy documents.

Based on these interviews and the review of these records, we identified thirteen individuals who were then employed by the USSS who had personal encounters with female Colombian nationals consistent with the misconduct reported around the time of advance activities for the President's visit to Cartagena. These encounters took place at the Hotel Caribe, the Hilton Cartagena, and at a private residence. Our investigation determined that twelve of these thirteen USSS employees met the female Colombia nationals at bars or clubs and returned with them to their rooms at the Hotel Caribe or the Hilton Cartagena Hotel. In addition, one USSS employee met a female Colombian national at private residence.

We interviewed twelve of the thirteen USSS employees who engaged in personal encounters with female Colombian nationals. Through our interviews, we learned that three of the females left the rooms without asking for money, five females asked for money and were paid, and four females asked for money but were not paid. In addition, one female, who asked to be paid but was not, brought a Colombian police officer to the door of the USSS employee's room. When the employee did not answer the door, the female national was paid by another USSS employee and left.



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Although we found that these agents engaged in misconduct, our investigation developed no evidence to suggest that the actions of USSS personnel in Cartagena compromised the safety and security of the President or any sensitive information during this trip.

While the scope of the investigation was limited to the conduct of the DHS personnel in Cartagena, we did find a hotel registry that suggests that two non-USSS personnel may have had contact with foreign nationals. DHS OIG did not conduct any additional investigation into this finding and has made no determination related to these individuals because they are not DHS personnel. Although allegations related to the non-USSS personnel were outside the scope of the investigation, one of these employees is a Department of Defense employee affiliated with the White House Communication Agency and the other, whose employment status was not verified, may have been affiliated with the White House advance operation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing support for the work of the DHS OIG. I look forward to briefing you at a time of your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles K. Edwards".

Charles K. Edwards
Acting Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
The Honorable Dan Coats
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Peter T. King
The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
The Honorable David E. Price