

Colombia Sends Negotiators to Meet with FARC in Havana



Bogota, December 1 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Colombia's chief negotiator Humberto de la Calle announced Sunday that members of his negotiating team will travel on Monday to Havana to initiate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for a two-day meeting to evaluate recent events.

De la Calle added that the government would also push for ways to “speed up talks and deescalate the conflict,” even before a deal is reached.

The decision follows the release of Gen. Ruben Alzate and his two companions, freed by the guerrilla group into the custody of a humanitarian mission led by the International Committee of the Red Cross early Sunday.

Alzate has been highest-ranking military detained by the rebels in more than 50 years of armed conflict and the incident immediately caused a crisis in the peace talks taking place in Cuba. However, despite the delays, negotiators from both sides decided not to jeopardize the two years peace process.

President Juan Manuel Santos stipulated that peace talks would only resume once the general and his companions were safely returned, in addition to two soldiers detained during a firefight in a separate incident earlier in November.

Meanwhile, the FARC has called for an immediate redesign of the peace process, which the insurgents say is threatened by the government's refusal to reach a bilateral cease-fire.

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