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Unidad 6, Almanaque

Paz Colombia

Obama Seeks Increased Aid to Colombia

00:20

President: Barack Obama: In the United States, we are big fans of Colombia. We love its culture, we love its contributions, we love Chiquita. Thank you all for being here as we reaffirm. We all remember a time, not long ago, when Columbia was torn apart by terrible violence, plagued by insurgency and civil war. Many of you who are here lived through those times, some of you here lost loved ones or friends, colleagues. And that's why the United States and Colombia forged what became Plan, Colombia starting with President Pastrana and transcending administrations in both of our countries. We were proud to support Colombia and its people as you strengthen your security forces, as you reformed land laws and bolstered democratic

Institutions. And as we celebrate a decade and a half, the tide has turned. As President Santos would be first to tell you, obviously serious challenges remain but from Cartagena to the Compo, there's no denying Colombia's remarkable transformation. Today's Colombia is a country of artists and entrepreneurs and dynamic cities, progress under Plan Colombia. it's a great honor to welcome--and just as the United States has been Colombia's partner in a time of war, I indicated to President Santos we will be your partner in waging peace. So today I'm proud to announce a new framework for the next chapter of our partnership and we're going to call it Peace Columbia –Paz Colombia. Santos, the first lady, Ms. Rodriguez—As Colombia transitions to peace, the United States will work with you hand in hand. I'm proposing that more than 450 million dollars be devoted to helping to reinforce security gains, reintegrate former combatants into society, and extend opportunity in the rule of law in the areas denied them for decades. We will continue to stand for human rights and justice for victims and we will keep working to protect our people as well as the Colombian people from the ravages of illegal drugs and the violence of drug traffickers.

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