

Bogotá, September 13th, 2106



Honorable Judge John O'Sullivan

Sir,

My name is Carlos Gustavo Cano.

I was Minister of Agriculture of Colombia since August 7th 2002 till February 4th 2005, when I became Director of the central bank (Banco de la República).

When I met for first time Andrés Felipe Arias in 2003, he was acting as advisor to my colleague the Minister of Finance Alberto Carrasquilla. As I was deeply impressed for his devotion to his job, his brilliance and his commitment to the public service, I asked President Álvaro Uribe his authorization to appoint Mr. Arias as Vice-minister of Agriculture, with the special mission of conducting the negotiation of the chapter of Agriculture in behalf of Colombia within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with United States of America.

Once I left the Ministry to assume my position as Director of Banco de la República, Mr. Arias was appointed Minister by President Uribe.

I understand that during his tenure as Minister, he continued receiving the technical assistance of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA, in Spanish), a leading think tank in the hemisphere that belongs to the Inter-American System run by the Organization of American States (OAS).

Since its creation in 1942 under the auspices and inspiration of Henry Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture of United States, the IICA headquarters were established in Costa Rica as a highly specialized center in agricultural technology and training.

As a result of the creation of OAS in 1948, IICA formally became the specialized organism in Agriculture of the Inter-American System. In 1964, 21 American states were already members of IICA, including Colombia. Since then, the Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia has received technical cooperation from the Institute.

I write this note with the purpose to show you that Mr. Arias did not take himself the initiative to contract IICA for performing specific or discretionary roles for the Ministry. Quite on the contrary, he followed the tradition of contracting IICA for cooperation activities in those fields where this entity has proved its competence and strength.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Cordially,

Carlos Gustavo Cano

DILIGENCIA DE AUTENTICACION DE FIRMA

En la Ciudad de Bogotá D.C. a 14 de 09 de 16.
Compareció ante la Notaría Primera del Circuito de Bogotá
Carlos Gustavo Cano Saiz
Quien se identificó con la Cédula de Ciudadanía
Número 14200417
expedida en Ibagué
y Declaró que la firma y rasgos que aparecen en el
presente documento son suyos
El declarante [Firma]
El Notario Primero [Firma]

