

# Lawmakers in Colombia Urge Firing of Mediator

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CARACAS, Venezuela, May 25 — When allegations emerged this month that outlawed Colombian paramilitaries had thrown whiskey-soaked parties with prostitutes in an area set aside for peace talks, [Colombia's](#) Congress expressed shock.

Lawmakers have now called for President [Álvaro Uribe](#) to dismiss the foreign diplomat who helped oversee the peace mission as a representative of the [Organization of American States](#).

In a terse resolution approved Thursday, Colombia's lower house accused the diplomat, Sergio Caramagna, of Argentina, of "incompetence in his mission." It remains unclear if Mr. Caramagna knew about the parties.

Mr. Caramagna declined to comment. The O.A.S. in Washington released a statement on Friday saying that the Colombian government had rejected the lawmakers' resolution.

The peace talks took place from 2004 to 2005 in Santa Fe de Ralito, a town in a rural area of northwestern Colombia, and some of the paramilitaries were allowed to remain into 2006. Partly as a result of the talks, the country passed a law that led to about 31,000 paramilitary combatants laying down their arms. But since then, some of the paramilitaries have re-emerged and are engaged in drug trafficking and fighting with guerrillas.

The reports of paramilitary parties points to broader tension, as Mr. Uribe is faced with an intensifying scandal over ties between some of his top political supporters and paramilitary death squads, which committed atrocities in Colombia's long internal war and exported large amounts of cocaine.

The accusations about the parties were published in the news magazine *Semana* this month. The magazine said the report was based on wiretap transcripts and photographs obtained from

undisclosed sources. The veracity of the transcripts has not been established.

Transcripts published by the magazine show paramilitaries negotiating with madams for encounters with the young women. Other visitors included nightclub singers, comedians, professional soccer players and mariachi bands, Semana said.

Salvatore Mancuso, the paramilitary chief who has confessed to ordering the killing of more than 300 people, boasts in the transcripts that the prostitutes available to him and his men were of “high-end” quality. They also show Mr. Mancuso ordering a helicopter pilot to bring him more ammunition for a hunting outing in which he shot 200 ducks.

The resolution also asks for investigations into whether others knew about the parties. The resolution asks the government to investigate Luis Carlos Restrepo, the appointee who was the government’s representative to the peace talks from May 2004 to August 2005. The measure also calls for the [Roman Catholic Church](#) to investigate its delegates to the negotiations.

“In the management of the zone, we never knew of any excesses of this kind,” Mr. Restrepo said in a telephone interview.

#### Release of Guerrillas Planned

BOGOTÁ, Colombia, May 25 (Agence France-Presse) — President Uribe announced Friday that his government planned to release a large group of imprisoned leftist guerrillas by June 7.

Mr. Uribe has been under pressure to free imprisoned guerrillas who belonged to the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#), known as F.A.R.C., in exchange for 56 hostages held by the rebels, including three Americans and a French-Colombian politician, Ingrid Betancourt.

“By June 7, I will have to have freed some or all of the F.A.R.C.,” Mr. Uribe said in an interview broadcast on Radio Caracol. “If it is not possible, I will transfer them to another place instead of a prison.”

