

Colombian Government and FARC Rebels Agree on Anti-Drug Issue in Peace Talks



Havana, February 14 (RHC) -- The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group on Thursday closed the 20th round of peace talks held in Havana, Cuba, with several agreements on the thorny issue of drug-trafficking.

The two parties said in a joint statement they are "committed" to finding a "definite solution to the problem of illegal crops. For the moment, we can say we have the first draft of the solution guidelines."

The drugs issue is one of the five points of the peace talks between the two parties, and the next round will begin on February 24th at Havana's Convention Center.

Meanwhile, the Colombian government advances in the ongoing probe into the alleged spying of the government negotiating team by elements within the military intelligence agency. According to reports, the illegal data interception was performed from the secret "Andromeda" base, of which a restaurant in downtown Bogota served as facade.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has said that the alleged interception of the communications of

the Colombian negotiators in Havana was "totally unacceptable" and would only serve the purpose of thwarting the peace talks. He said the investigation's results will be disclosed soon.

The talks between the Colombian government and FARC started in November 2012. In previous rounds, both parties reached agreements on rural land development and political participation of the guerrilla group, the two first points of the agenda.

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