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Message from
The Rt Hon Theresa May MP,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

I am delighted to welcome President Santos to Downing Street for Colombia's first State Visit to the United Kingdom. Colombia is one of Britain's most important partners in Latin America and the President's visit provides a unique opportunity to build on the strong ties that have existed between us for more than two hundred years.

Our close partnership on a range of bilateral and global issues, including trade and investment, tackling corruption and climate change, benefits us both. Our security and justice cooperation is helping Colombia to fight the organised crime and drug trafficking that destabilises the region and affects us here in Britain.

The United Kingdom has been Colombia's third largest foreign investor over the past decade, and our trading relationship was worth £1 billion last year. We are committed to building on these growing commercial ties and I want to see even more British companies and

investors taking up the opportunities that Colombia offers.

Peace will bring stability and prosperity to Colombia after more than 50 years of conflict, and is in all of our interests. We will continue to support the President as he works to secure a final and lasting agreement, including through our leadership at the UN Security Council. We are sharing practical advice based on our experience in Northern Ireland, which taught us that peace-building takes time, perseverance and patience.

The Nobel Peace Prize recently awarded to President Santos is testament to his personal commitment to bringing about an end to the devastating conflict. And it is evidence of the firm belief that the people of Colombia will achieve peace and justice.

I look forward to my discussions with President Santos this week and to an even stronger partnership between our two countries in the years ahead.

Rt Hon Theresa May MP,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland