

in the US, especially members of the Republican Party, have not been shy about concealing their outrage over the issue. They are not alone - Colombia's respected Minister of Defense resigned in mid-1999, citing the 'zona de distensión' as a prime example of his irreconcilable differences with the floundering government of Andres Pastrana.<sup>102</sup> Naturally, the Farc appears unwilling to give back any portion of this strategic real estate. The area is now being contested militarily by the government. It launched a major military offensive in the region in mid-July 1999, following an ever-louder litany of complaints by the Colombian population and Washington regarding the Farc's claim to the zone.<sup>103</sup>

Narcotrafficking also raises issues related to the space of the biopshere. Soil erosion, and chemical pollution of waterways, are well known hazards associated with coca cultivation and its processing into cocaine. Of even greater concern is the pollution surrounding increasing opium growth near Colombia's border with Ecuador, a location which also marks the source of much of the country's rivers.<sup>104</sup> Beyond those worries, aerial fumigation on the part of the State with herbicides designed to kill coca not only causes pollution from the herbicide itself, but ironically this process has also been shown to result in increased cultivation and associated pollution. This is because growers take into consideration the probability of fumigation, and therefore cultivate additional crops.<sup>105</sup>

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Spatial boundaries also have been altered by the Internet. Guerrilla and paramilitary groups have established Web pages and electronic mailing lists aimed at attracting support from the English speaking world.<sup>106</sup> Indeed, such groups have attempted to establish themselves on a level of global credibility at least as substantial as that of the Colombian government. As the aforementioned visit by the Chair of the NYSE to the jungle locale of the Farc demonstrates, the strategy seems to be working. The use of the Internet by subversive forces demonstrates that the target audience is an international one that surpasses Colombia's own population.