

Friday, April 12, 2024
Miami, Florida

Allocution

Thank you, Your Honor, for the opportunity to speak.

I am a 73 year old man. During my formative years in college, I was heavily influenced by the radical politics of the day. My deep commitment at that time to radical social change in the region led me to the eventual betrayal of my oath of loyalty to the United States during my two decades in the State Department.

Today, I no longer see the world through the radical eyes of my youth. I left the Government 22 years ago, moved to this great city, and dedicated the rest of my life to my family and the education of my children. My long and successful transition to the private sector culminated in my becoming a top international executive in the mining sector for well over a decade.

The latter, however, cannot erase the damage done during my earlier career working for the Government. I take fully responsibility for that and accept the penalty I must pay. Importantly, I am making, and will continue to make as required, significant amends through my unconditional collaboration to those I have betrayed.

I know that my actions have caused great pain to my family, former colleagues, and the closest of friends. I ask them all for their understanding and their forgiveness. They need to know I am deeply and sincerely sorry.

Thank you, Your Honor.

Manuel Rocha