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1978 VISIT OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER. ALTHOUGH THERE IS
A TENDENCY TO BLAME THE UNITED STATES FOR VENEZUELA'S CURRENT
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH
MIGHT TAKE PLACE WOULD BE AIMED AT PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT
RATHER THEY WOULD BE STAGED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT
TO EITHER EMBARRASS THE CURRENT VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OR TO
FURTHER DRAMATIZE THE CAUSE BEING ADVOCATED. (SOURCE : A
STAFF OFFICER OF THIS AGENCY.)

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3. THE VENEZUELAN SECURITY SERVICES RECOGNIZE THIS
SITUATION AND EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE UNPLEASANT, ANTI-
VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT INCIDENTS DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S
CARACAS VISIT. VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THESE INCIDENTS
WILL DEAL WITH CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
CORRUPTION. THE SECURITY FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL ANY
SITUATION THAT ARISES, THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE. (SOURCE:

[AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN SERVICE.] (S)

1. THE VENEZUELAN LEFTIST GROUPS

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POLISH DIPLOMATS. (SOURCE: A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN WITH CONTACTS AMONG [SECURITY OFFICIALS] AND WHOSE REPORTING IS GENERALLY (S) SECRET RELIABLE.)

5. VENEZUELAN EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS INCLUDE THE BANDERA ROJA (BR); THE BANDERA ROJA-MARXIST/LENINIST (BR/MLLN ALSO KNOWN AS THE ANTONIO JOSE DE SCURE GUERRILLA FRONT: THE ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FALN), AND THE ORGANIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARIES (OR). THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE EASTERN VENEZUELAN STATES, PARTICULARLY MONAGAS, ANZOATEGUI, SUCRE AND BOLIVAR. THEY HAVE CARRIED OUT NUMEROUS RAIDS ON MILITARY POSTS, HAVE TAKEN OVER SMALL TOWNS FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH THEY LECTURED THE TOWNS PEOPLE ON ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL THEMES, AND IN GENERAL HAVE HARRASSED AND EMBARRASSED THE GOVERNMENT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. (SOURCE:

[A VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WITH ACCESS TO OFFICIAL REPORTS] AND] WHOSE REPORTING IS GENERALLY RELIABLE.) (S)

6. DESPITE A LARGE-SCALE VENEZUELAN MILITARY COMMITMENT IN THE EASTERN STATES, THE GUERRILLAS REMAIN

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VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED. THEY MOVE ABOUT THE TOWNS AND CITIES OF
THE AREA RELATIVELY FREELY AND GENERALLY ENJOY THE SUPPORT
OF THE LOCAL CITIZENS. FOR THE MOST PART, THEY ARE NATIVES OF
THE AREA, OR THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME
THERE, HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE LOCAL PEOPLE, AND, IN SHORT,
ARE MORE FRIENDLY AND THUS MORE WELCOME THAN THE GOVERNMENT
SECURITY AND MILITARY PEOPLE. ESTIMATES OF THEIR STRENGTH
RANGE FROM 50 TO 150 INDIVIDUALS. (SOURCE: [A VENEZUELAN

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GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WITH ACCESS TO OFFICIAL REPORTS AND] WHOSE (S)
REPORTING IS GENERALLY RELIABLE.)

7. THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN HEAVY HANDED METHODS IN DEALING
WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION, HAVE, IN TURN, HARMED THE GOVERN-
MENT'S IMAGE IN THE AREA FAR MORE THAN THE GUERRILLAS COULD
HAVE HOPED TO DO WITH THEIR OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT
PUBLICLY CLAIMS TO HAVE CAPTURED SEVERAL GUERRILLA LEADERS
RECENTLY, THE PRISONERS ARE ILLITERATE FARM WORKERS WHO CLEARLY
ARE NOT TRAINED GUERRILLA FIGHTERS. THOSE WHO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE
BEEN VICTIMIZED BY THE SECURITY FORCES, TURN AWAY FROM THE
GOVERNMENT AND TOWARD THE GUERRILLAS. MANY OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT

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DIRECTLY AFFECTED ALSO LOSE RESPECT FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT WHICH, WHILE MISTREATING THE CITIZENRY, FAILS TO ERADICATE THE GUERRILLAS. INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. (SOURCE: A VENEZUELAN PROFESSIONAL MAN WITH GOOD CONTACTS IN [SECURITY AND JUDICIAL] CIRCLES AND WHOSE REPORTING IS GENERALLY RELIABLE.)

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8. DURING THE PAST TWO TO THREE MONTHS THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE. VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAD BELIEVED THAT AFTER SPENDING AN ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON, THE GUERRILLAS WOULD RESUME THEIR CAMPAIGN IN FEBRUARY. THIS HAS NOT MATERIALIZED AND SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO DISCOVER WHETHER THE GUERRILLAS HAVE TAKEN COVER AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN THE EASTERN STATES OR ARE REGROUPING AND PLANNING TO RENEW THEIR ACTIVITIES SOON. (SOURCE: [AN OFFICIAL

[VENEZUELAN SERVICE.]) (S)

9. IN LATE FEBRUARY, HOWEVER, VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT BR LEADER GABRIEL P U E R T A APONTE AND SEVERAL OTHER GUERRILLA LEADERS WERE IN CARACAS.

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PUERTA AND THE OTHERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH

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UNSPECIFIED EXTREME LEFTIST ELEMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE SHIFTING OF THE GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN TO THE URBAN AREAS ARE BEING MADE. (SOURCE: A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN WITH CONTACTS AMONG [SECURITY OFFICIALS] AND WHOSE REPORTING IS GENERALLY (S) RELIABLE.)

10. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STILL BELIEVES THAT THE 26 FEBRUARY 1976 KIDNAPPING OF UNITED STATES BUSINESSMAN WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE BR, FALN AND THE OR WORKING JOINTLY. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPRISONED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPOSED INVOLVEMENT IN THE KIDNAPPING, THE CASE REMAINS UNRESOLVED AND NIEHOUS' WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. (SOURCE: [AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN

SERVICE.] (S)

11. IN ADDITION TO THEIR RURAL MILITARY APPARATS, THE BR, OR AND FALN MAINTAIN QUASI- LEGAL FRONT GROUPS WHICH ARE ACTIVE IN THE URBAN AREAS. THE BR HAS NUMEROUS CIVIC

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AWARENESS GROUPS SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, THE STUDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR THE POPULAR STRUGGLE (CLEP), ETC. THE OR MAINTAINS A FRONT GROUP KNOWN AS THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE (LS, WHICH, IN TURN HAS ORGANIZED THE UNITED POPULAR STUDENT MOVMENT (MEUP). THE FALN'S LESS SUCCESSFUL FRONT IS RUPTURA. CLEP, MEUP AND RUPTURA HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO ORGANIZE THE RECENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES WHICH BEGAN IN MID-FEBRUARY. FURTHERMORE, WHILE THERE IS NO PROOF, VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE FRONT GROUPS ARE NOW RECEIVING SUPPORT AND DIRECTION FROM ABROAD. VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS EXPECT THESE DISTURBANCES TO CONTINUE AND INDEED INCREASE UNTIL AFTER THE DECEMBER ELECTION. (SOURCE: [AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN SERVICE.]) (S)

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12. IN DISCUSSING THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES, RETIRED GENERAL RAUL G I M E N E Z GAINZA, HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE SERVICES OF INTELLIGENCE AND PREVENTION (DISIP), SAID THAT HE FULLY EXPECTS THE DEMONSTRATIONS TO CONTINUE FOR SOMETIME. FURTHERMORE, HE OPINED THAT THE POLICE HAVE AS YET NOT REALLY BEEN CALLED OUT IN FORCE TO HANDLE THE

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INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST, IS A VENEZUELAN CITIZEN WHOSE FAMILY RESIDES IN SAN CRISTOBAL, TACHIRA STATE. THERE HAS BEEN PAST INFORMATION THAT RAMIREZ' ASSOCIATES OCCASIONALLY TRAVEL TO VENEZUELA. THERE IS NO CURRENT INFORMATION INDICATING THAT "CARLOS" HIMSELF OR ANY OF HIS CURRENT CLOSE ASSOCIATES ARE NOW IN VENEZUELA. (SOURCE: [AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN SERVICE.]) (S)

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19. JOHNY K H O U R I, LATIN AMERICAN HEAD OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP), RESIDES IN THE PORT CITY OF LA GUAIRA IN THE CARACAS FEDERAL DISTRICT. THE GOV IS AWARE OF KHOURI'S PRESENCE IN VENEZUELA AND HAS AGREED TO ALLOW HIM TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY AS LONG AS HE DOES NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN PFLP OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA. IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE KHOURI'S COMPLIANCE, THE GOV OCCASIONALLY MONITORS HIS ACTIVITIES. AS IN THE PAST, DISIP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLACE KHOURI UNDER "PREVENTIVE DETENTION" DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. (SOURCE: A STAFF OFFICER OF THIS AGENCY.)

20. IN ADDITION TO CUBAN EXILES, JEWISH AND ARAB GROUPS,

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IT IS TOO EARLY TO DO SO. PRELIMINARY THOUGHT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING A JOINT SPECIAL SECURITY COMMAND TO COORDINATE MILITARY, POLICE AND SECURITY UNITS ASSIGNED TO SAFEGUARDING PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS PARTY. (SOURCE:

[AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN SERVICE.] (s)

25. IN GENERAL, THE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE SERVICES TEND TO MAKE BOTH DIM AND DISIP LESS FORTHCOMING WITH AND TRUSTFUL OF OUTSIDERS. FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER AND MUTUAL COOPERATION IS LIMITED. DESPITE THESE LIMITATIONS, THE VENEZUELAN SECURITY SERVICES ARE WELL DISPOSED TO AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION FOR AND COOPERATION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS PARTY. (SOURCE: A STAFF OFFICER OF THIS AGENCY.)

V. EMBASSY COMMENT

25. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CHARGE HAS SEEN THIS REPORT AND HAS NO COMMENT TO ADD.)

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