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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO

TO RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC (b)(3):10 USC 424

CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) VENEZUELA (VE).

IPSP: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 REPORT SUMMARIZES SIGNIFICANT
ACTIVITIES ON 20021217 AS REPORTED IN SITUATION REPORTS (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20021217.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),1.4 (b),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

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(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),1.4 (b),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

B. (U) OPEN SOURCE TV REPORTING HAS COVERAGE OF NUMEROUS OPPOSITION MARCHES TAKING PLACE TODAY THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA. ONE OF THE LARGEST MARCHES IS TAKING PLACE IN MARACAIBO WHERE THE OPPOSITION IS PROTESTING IN SUPPORT OF THE PDVSA STRIKE AND AGAINST THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT. NO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS OF 1200(L).

3. (U) GENERAL INFORMATION AS OF 1800(L).

A. (U) ACCORDING TO TV COVERAGE, THE OPPOSITION MARCH IN CARACAS ENDED SHORT OF ITS OBJECTIVE AND HAD TO CHANGE ROUTE DUE TO BARRICADES SET UP BY PRO-CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS. THE OPPOSITION DID NOT GO ALL THE WAY FROM ALTAMIRA TO THE PANTEON BECAUSE SEVERAL HUNDRED CHAVISTAS REMAINED AT THE PANTEON AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A GOVERNMENT CEREMONY CELEBRATING THE 172ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SIMON BOLIVAR. PRESIDENT CHAVEZ PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY. NATIONAL GUARD, METROPOLITAN POLICE AND POLICARACAS WERE ALL PRESENT AND FORMED BARRICADES NEAR THE PANTEON TO KEEP THE OPPOSITION FROM REACHING THE WAITING CHAVISTAS.

THIS WAS THE FIRST MARCH IN WHICH THE OPPOSITION VENTURED INTO A PART OF THE CITY THAT IS POPULATED MOSTLY BY CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS. THERE ARE MORE MARCHES SCHEDULED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK AND IF MARCHES CONTINUE TO PARTS OF THE CITY WITH MOSTLY CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS, THE PROBABILITY OF VIOLENCE WILL INCREASE.)

B. (U) ACCORDING TO TV COVERAGE, THE NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER FROM CORE 2, BG LUIS FELIPE ((ACOSTA)) ALONG WITH 15-20 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN TOOK BY FORCE TWO PRIVATELY OWNED TUGBOATS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MOVE TANKERS TO THE EL PALITO PETROLEUM FACILITIES IN PUERTO CABELLO. THE TANKER BORA, WAITING TO UNLOAD GASOLINE, DID NOT FEEL IT COULD SAFELY UNLOAD AND REPORTED IT WAS RETURNING TO CURACAO.

C. (U) (b)(1),1.4 (b),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

(b)(3):10 USC
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