BODY

SUBJ: DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE REPORT DIR 198,92, VENEZUELA: THE 1992 COUP ATTEMPTS AND BEYOND (U)

1. (U) KEY JUDGMENTS

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)
3. (U) REBEL LEADERS

   A. (CONF) THE FEBRUARY COUP ATTEMPT WAS LED BY ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONELS HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS AND FRANCISCO JAVIER ARIAS CARDENAS.
C. (U) KEY COUP LEADERS

(1) (CONF) LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS, ARMY:
COLONEL CHAVEZ WAS THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER OF THE MBR REBELS.
C. (CONT) A TAPE INTERVIEW WITH CHAVEZ

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

GOVERNMENT

BANNED BY THE

THE INTERVIEW WAS NEVERTHELESS PRINTED VERBATIM IN NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA. IN THE INTERVIEW, CHAVEZ BLAMED THE "RULING CLASS" FOR CONTINUING TO CLING TO ITS PRIVILEGES AND STUBBORNLY RESISTING NEEDED CHANGES. SPEAKING IN VAGUE LANGUAGE, CHAVEZ ALSO TALKED ABOUT A SYSTEM THAT HAD LOST ITS EQUILIBRIUM, STRUCTURE, AND CAPACITY TO REGULATE ITSELF IN RELATION TO EVENTS THAT AFFECT IT.