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

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) VENEZUELA (VE).

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 /ANONYMOUS LETTER ACCUSES MOD OF
BETRAYAL (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 920221.

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SUMMARY: ~~(C/NF)~~ AN ANONYMOUS LETTER SENT TO PROMINENT VENEZUELAN AND SOME NEWSPAPERS ACCUSING VE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF BETRAYING THE REBELLION.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C/NF)~~ FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF A LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE VENEZUELA (UCV)'S PRESIDENT (FNU) ((FUENMAYOR)). THE LETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO FORMER VE PRESIDENT DR. RAFAEL ((CALDERA)), DR. JOSE VICENTE ((RANGEL)) A PROMINENT VE WRITER, DR. ARTURO ((USLAR)) PIETRI ANOTHER PROMINENT VE WRITER, SR. ARISTOBULO ((ISTURIZ)) (NFI), PLUS THE NEWSPAPERS EL NACIONAL AND EL NUEVO PAIS, THE VE MILITARY ACADEMY AND UCV. IT WAS SIGNED OFFICERS, NCOS AND TROOPS THAT SURRENDERED THEIR LIVES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN VENEZUELA, FOR AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACY.

2. ~~(C/NF)~~ BEGIN TRANSLATION. CARACAS, 05 FEB 92. ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC. DR. RAMON ((ESCOBAR)) SALOM. BEFORE WE BEGIN WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR PRIDE AND SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR FEARLESS ATTITUDE AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE CONCESSIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO GIVE TO COLOMBIA, BECAUSE HE IDENTIFIES MORE WITH THEM (THE COLOMBIANS) THAN WITH US.

3. ~~(C/NF)~~ YOU REPRESENT PART OF THE MORAL BACKBONE OF THE NATION UNITED WITH DR. RAFAEL CALDERA, DR. ARTURO USLAR PIETRI, DR. RAUL ((MATOS)) AZOCAR, DR. JOSE VICENTE RANGEL, DR. RAFAEL ((POLEO)), DR. ALFREDO ((PENA)), STUDENT LEADERS, THE WORKING CLASS, THE DIRECTORS OF THE MOVIMIENTO ELECTORAL DEL PUEBLO (MEP), THE MIDDLE BLOCKS OF THE MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO (MAS) AND SOME LEADERS OF CAUSA RADICAL (CAUSA R) (NOT INCLUDING ANDRES ((VELASQUEZ))).

4. ~~(C/NF)~~ WE THINK THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW SOME CLUES THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO THE REAL LEADER OF OUR ACTION; WHICH WAS NOT PRECISELY LTC HUGO ((CHAVEZ)) FRIAS, HE IS ONLY A VALIENT FIGHTER FOR THE COUNTRY, WHO TOOK RESPONSIBILITY IN ORDER NOT TO FAIL THE OFFICERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTION TO AVENGE THE VENEZUELAN POPULACE.

5. ~~(C/NF)~~ WE ARE DEMOCRATS, THE MAJORITY OF THESE YOUNG OFFICERS WERE BORN DURING THE PERIOD THAT BEGAN IN 1958, WE DO NOT KNOW DICTATORSHIP AND THAT WAS NOT OUR OBJECTIVE, WE SEEK LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND HONESTY.

6. ~~(C/NF)~~ THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A GOVERNING

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COUNCIL OF CONVERGENCE WHICH WOULD LAST DURING THE PROVISIONAL PERIOD AND WE FEEL WOULD BE THE BASE OF AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACY, THE BOLIVARIAN DEMOCRACY.

7. ~~(CONF)~~ THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD JUDGE ALL THOSE ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT (OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS) IN ORDER TO REVIVE THE NATIONAL MORALITY AND PAY THE EXTERNAL DEBT THAT IS SUFFOCATING US.

8. ~~(CONF)~~ OUR ACTION LOOKS TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR A NEW VENEZUELA, THE ONE THAT BOLIVAR DREAMED ABOUT. ONE THAT CAN BE SEEN ON THE HORIZON, FOR THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE VICTORY FOR THIS SUBJUGATED POPULACE.

9. ~~(CONF)~~ THE ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ACTION IS GENERAL DE DIVISION FERNANDO ((OCHOA)) ANTICH WHO BETRAYED US. HE KNEW ALL THAT HAPPENED AND HE HELPED US, HE PUT THE LTC'S IN THE PARACHUTE AND RANGER/SPECIAL FORCES (CAZADORES) BATTALIONS, ALWAYS DURING OUR MEETINGS IN THE MILITARY ACADEMY WITH THE GARRISON OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT (CARACAS) AND MIRANDA STATE, IN A SUBLIMINAL MANNER YOU INCITED US TO REBEL AGAINST THE CORRUPT ONES.

10. ~~(CONF)~~ ANALYZE AND LOOK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CLUES THAT WE GIVE YOU. 1. THE LTC'S THAT APPEAR RESPONSIBLE TODAY WERE EXPOSED IN THE PRESS, TWO YEARS AGO, FOR A SUPPOSED CONSPIRACY.

11. ~~(CONF)~~ THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY AND THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND DID NOT WANT THESE LTC'S TO HAVE COMMANDS AND THE MOD INTERCEDED ON THEIR BEHALF TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY IN ORDER TO PUT THE LTC'S IN THESE POSITIONS, CLOSE TO CARACAS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LTC HUGO CHAVEZ IS AN ARMOR OFFICER AND THEY GAVE HIM COMMAND OF A PARACHUTE BATTALION.

12. ~~(CONF)~~ LOOK BACK OVER THE HARANGUES THE MOD GAVE US IN THE THEATER OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, HE WAS A FIGHTER AGAINST CORRUPTION, OR SO HE APPEARED. ONE TIME HE SAID THAT IF VENEZUELA NEEDED HIM, HE WOULD ANSWER THE CALL, AND THAT HIS COMMITMENT WAS TO VENEZUELA.

13. ~~(CONF)~~ LOOK BACK AT THE SUBLIMINAL CONTENT OF HIS SPEECH IN HONOR OF DR. USLAR PIETRI, IN THE THEATER OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY OF VENEZUELA.

14. ~~(CONF)~~ IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER OF 1991 THE GENERAL DE DIVISION ((GONZALEZ)) BELTRAN, WHO WAS A PART OF THIS CONSPIRACY, IN THAT HIS NAME WAS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE JUNIOR GRADE OFFICERS, BEGAN TO CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE

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TOWARDS US. BEFORE HE WOULD SAY THAT THE GENERALS WERE CORRUPT AND WOULD TALK BADLY ABOUT HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS. DURING ONE MEETING, WHERE HE MET WITH LIEUTENANTS IN THE MIDDLE COURSES, HE ALSO PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A SAVIOR AND WE ALL WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THIS GENERAL WHO HAD SPENT HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE MISTREATING AND TRYING TO DESTROY HIS JUNIOR OFFICERS AND NOW HE WAS PRESENTING HIMSELF AS A GOOD GUY WHO WORRIED ABOUT US. DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE MET OFTEN WITH THE MOD WHEN HIS NAME BEGAN TO CIRCULATE AMONG US OFFICERS, HE BROUGHT OUT A TELEX THAT STATED HE WAS NOT A CONSPIRATOR. WHY? WE DON'T KNOW, MAYBE HE FELT HE'D BEEN DISCOVERED.

15. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH TRAINING FOR THE PARACHUTE BRIGADE AND THE RANGER/SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION OF LTC ((ORTIZ)) CONTRERAS. WHY PARACHUTE COURSES FOR LTC ORTIZ'S BATTALION AND SPECIAL FORCES/RANGER COURSES FOR LTC CHAVEZ'S BATTALION. COULD IT BE THAT THEY WERE TRAINING FOR AN OPERATION?

16. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH ASSISTANCE FOR THE RANGER BATTALION, ((GENEARO)) VASQUEZ (FIELD COMMENT-- BATTALIONS ARE USUALLY DENOMINATED WITH THE NAME OF AN HISTORIC MILITARY FIGURE) WHO HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY ASSISTANCE, BUT NOW THAT LTC ORTIZ CONTRERAS COMMANDS THE UNIT HE HAS RECEIVED MILLIONS TO IMPROVE THE MORAL OF THE TROOPS WHO WOULD SOON BE FIGHTING.

17. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WERE THERE SO MANY VIOLATIONS OF ARMY PROCEDURE, WHERE THE LTC'S PASSED THEIR REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE MOD WITHOUT INFORMING THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

18. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WAS THE MOD SO PREOCCUPIED WITH GAINING THE SUPPORT OF THESE OFFICERS, WHEN WE ARE ALL THE ARMED FORCES, WHY THE INCLINATION TOWARDS THE JUNIOR OFFICERS. COULD IT BE THAT HE WISHED TO WIN THE APPRECIATION AND CONFIDENCE OF THE FUTURE COMBATANTS.

19. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WERE NEW ARMS GIVEN TO THE PARACHUTE BATTALIONS, WHY DID THEY DELIVER SO QUICKLY GRENADES AND EXPLOSIVES FOR EXERCISES IN THE PAO (FIELD COMMENT-- EL PAO IS THE COMMON NAME GIVEN TO THE ARMY'S TRAINING AREA SOUTH OF VALENCIA). WHY DID THEY SEND TELESCOPIC SIGHTS AND FAL RIFLES FOR TRAINING SNIPERS (USED IN URBAN WARFARE).

20. ~~(CONF)~~ WHY WAS LTC HUGO CHAVEZ GIVEN 500,000 BOLIVARS (APPROX 8000 USD) TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE OPERATION,

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SO THAT HE COULD IMPROVE THE MORALE OF HIS SOLDIERS BY REMODELING THE MESS HALL AND OTHER AREAS.

21. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THEY PROVIDE LTC CHAVEZ WITH FILM EQUIPMENT. COULD IT HAVE BEEN TO FILM A STATEMENT TO THE NATION.

22. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THEY PLAN AN OPERATION IN THE PAO, TO RESOLVE THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS OF THE BATTALIONS THAT DIDN'T HAVE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION. COULD IT HAVE BEEN TO TRANSPORT THEMSELVES INTO CARACAS FOR THE OPERATION. WERE THEY AUTHORIZED ARMY TRANSPORTATION LEGALLY.

23. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY HASN'T THE MOST SENIOR ARMY OFFICER, GENERAL DE DIVISION FERNANDO OCHOA ANTICH, VISITED THE OFFICERS IN PRISON. COULD IT BE THAT HE IS ASHAMED THAT HE BETRAYED US AND HE IS MAKING DECLARATIONS AGAINST US. COULD IT BE THAT HE WANTS TO CONVINCE EVERYONE THAT HE WAS NOT A PART OF THE ATTEMPTED **COUP**.

24. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID LTC **HUGO CHAVEZ** FRIAS SURRENDER BEFORE GENERAL DE BRIGADA ((SANTELIZ)) RUIZ, WHO HAS A REPUTATION AS A CONSPIRATOR.

25. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY IS THERE SO MUCH INSISTENCE THAT WE ARE FASCISTS. WHY, IF THEY KNOW THAT WE ARE BOLIVARIANS.

26. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THEY DISMISS ONE DIRECTORATE OF SERVICIOS DE INTELIGENCIA Y PREVENTION (DISIP) OFFICIAL AND ONE POLICIA TECNICA JUDICIAL (PTJ) IN ARAGUA STATE, WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO ALERT PEOPLE ABOUT THE BOLIVARIAN MOVEMENT.

27. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THE COMMANDER OF THE IV INFANTRY DIVISION, GENERAL DE BRIGADA DIOGENES ((MARICHALES)), SHOW SO MUCH INTEREST IN CLEANING UP THE IMAGE OF LTC CHAVEZ AS A CONSPIRATOR. COULD HE HAVE BEEN UNDER ORDERS OF THE MOD.

28. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THE MOD CONTINUOUSLY MEET WITH LTC CHAVEZ IN HIS OFFICE.

29. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY WAS THE DIRECTORATE DE INTELIGENCIA MILITAR (DIM) DISMANTLED BY ORDER OF THE MOD, COULD IT HAVE BEEN TO PERMIT THE CONSPIRATORS TO PLAN.

30. ~~(C/NF)~~ WHY DID THE MOD IN MEETINGS WITH COL ((MACHILLANDA)) PINTO (RETIRED), LTC ISAIAS ((BADUEL)), CAPT ((ZOMACAL)) LONGO AND LTC ((VIELMA)) MORA; DISCUSS POLITICS INSTEAD OF TACTICS OR THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR.

31. ~~(C/NF)~~ REALLY, WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHO ARE THE PATRIOTS AND WHO ARE THE REALISTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION, FOR ALWAYS, OFFICERS, NCOS

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AND TROOPS THAT SURRENDERED THEIR LIVES FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW IN VENEZUELA, FOR AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACY.

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