

CDS

(b)(3):10 USC 424

HEADER

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FM SSO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

CONTROLS

~~SECRET WINTEL NOFORN~~

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SECTION 01 OF 04

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

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

SUBJ: DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS 169-92. (U)

DOI: 31 AUG 92

SUMMARY

Non Responsive

~~SECRET~~
~~UNINTEL, NOFORN~~

8. ~~(C/NF)~~ VENEZUELA: A CONTROVERSY OVER THE MATTER OF
JURISDICTION IN A NAVY CORRUPTION SCANDAL HIGHLIGHTS THE COUNTRY'S
CONTINUING CIVIL-MILITARY TENSION.

Non Responsive

~~UNINTEL, NOFORN~~
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~WINTEL, NOFORN~~

Non Responsive

8. ~~(C/NF)~~ VENEZUELA: A CONTROVERSY OVER THE MATTER OF JURISDICTION IN A NAVY CORRUPTION SCANDAL HIGHLIGHTS THE COUNTRY'S CONTINUING CIVIL-MILITARY TENSION. TENSION REPORTEDLY ESCALATED LATE LAST WEEK FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF CIVILIAN ARREST WARRANTS FOR FOUR SENIOR NAVAL OFFICIALS BELIEVED INVOLVED IN CONTRACTING

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 004 *****/

IRREGULARITIES. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, MILITARY AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN JURISDICTION OVER ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL. RESOLVING THIS CASE, HOWEVER, COULD TAKE MONTHS, AND PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL PROBABLY PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY TO AVOID WORSENING THE ARMED FORCES' DISCONTENT THAT HAS LINGERED SINCE THE 4 FEBRUARY COUP ATTEMPT. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS WORRY THAT PROLONGED NEWS MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE SCANDAL WILL INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S DEMANDS FOR WIDE-SCALE CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS THAT COULD IMPLICATE PEREZ. IN ANY EVENT, THE JURISDICTIONAL CONTROVERSY SURFACED ONLY HOURS BEFORE PEREZ ORDERED THE MILITARY COURT TO PROHIBIT THE AIRING OF A POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING INTERVIEW WITH LT COL **HUGO CHAVEZ**, THE JAILED LEADER OF THE FEBRUARY **COUP** ATTEMPT. THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP HAS CONTINUALLY PLAYED DOWN THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT. ACCORDING TO

(b)(3):10 USC 424

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE PRO-CHAVEZ SENTIMENT REMAINS ENTRENCHED IN THE NCO RANKS.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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