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BT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (b)(2)

SECTION 01 OF 02

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SERIAL: (U) (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO); VENEZUELA (VE).
SUBJ: (b)(2),(b)(3):10 ARAUCA BORDER REGION SEES
CORDIAL, BUT UNSUBSTANTIAL LOCAL RELATIONS BETWEEN
COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN MILITARIES; ALLEGED VENEZUELAN
SUPPORT TO FARC/ELN, FACILITATING CANO LIMON PIPELINE
ATTACKS (U)

IPSP: (U) (b)(2)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT ~~CLASSIFIED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20011204.
REQS: (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424
SOURCES: A. (C)

(b)(2)

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

B. ~~(S)~~

C. (U)

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ CORDIAL LOCAL RELATIONS BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN MILITARY IN ARAUCA CONTRAST COLMIL DISTRUST OF VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT; 18TH BRIGADE CONVINCED VENEZUELA SUPPORTS FARC AND ELN, FACILITATES AND TAKES ADVANTAGE OF GUERRILLA PIPELINE ATTACKS.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ DESPITE LITTLE NATIONAL-LEVEL COOPERATION AND MUCH SUSPICION, CORDIAL BUT RELATIVELY UNSUBSTANTIAL RELATIONS EXIST BETWEEN LOCAL COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN MILITARY FORCES SITUATED ALONG THE RIO ARAUCA, WHICH COMPRISES THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER ON ARAUCA'S NORTHERN PERIPHERY. (b)(2)

(b)(2) CHARACTERIZED LOCAL, CROSS-BORDER RELATIONS BETWEEN COLMIL AND VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES AS EXCELLENT, CORDIAL, AND POSITIVE. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH NATIONAL-LEVEL RELATIONS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS MUCH LESS POSITIVE DUE PRINCIPALLY TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HUGO ((CHAVEZ))(b)(2)

(b)(2) ALSO STATED THAT LOCAL RELATIONS ARE GOOD, DESPITE VERY LITTLE COOPERATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. LOCAL RELATIONS EXIST AT NUMEROUS POINTS ALONG THE ARAUCA RIVER, WHEREVER 18TH BRIGADE SOLDIERS ARE STATIONED, BUT PARTICULARLY AT ARAUCA AND SARAVENA (b)(2)

(b)(2) . NEVERTHELESS, WHILE SOME OCCASIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OCCURS, (b)(2) THE VENEZUELAN'S GENERALLY AVOID PROVIDING SUBSTANTIVE ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE, COMBINED PLANNING AND OPERATIONS. OR MORE REGULARIZED LIAISON.

2. ~~(S)~~ (b)(2) REPORTED LITTLE COOPERATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN RIVERINE UNIT SITUATED ACROSS THE RIVER FROM ARAUCA. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS PRIMARILY TO THE LATTER'S LACK OF OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY, POSSESSING ONLY FOUR SMALL BOATS. (b)(2) EXPLAINED THAT HIS BASE'S MAIN BUILDINGS WERE NEWLY REBUILT AFTER BEING DESTROYED IN 2000 DURING A FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC) INSURGENT GAS CYLINDER ATTACK LAUNCHED FROM ACROSS THE RIVER ON THE VENEZUELAN SIDE OF THE BORDER; IN SPITE

(b)(2)

OF THIS, HE INDICATED NO ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY TO INCREASE PATROLS OF THE AREA OR OTHERWISE TAKE ACTION TO THWART ANY SIMILAR FUTURE

(b)(2)

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COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO); VENEZUELA (VE).

SUBJ: (b)(2),(b)(3):10 ARAUCA BORDER REGION SEES CORDIAL, BUT UNSUBSTANTIAL LOCAL RELATIONS BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN MILITARIES; ALLEGED VENEZUELAN SUPPORT TO FARC/ELN, FACILITATING CANO LIMON PIPELINE ATTACKS (U)

ATTACKS. (b)(1)

3. (S) [REDACTED] FELT ONE REASON FOR THE VENEZUELAN'S CORDIAL BUT HOLLOW DISPOSITION LAY WITH A "SECRET" VENEZUELAN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE UNIT WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO HELP ENSURE THAT VENEZUELAN MILITARY PERSONNEL "FOLLOWED THE CHAVEZ PARTY LINE, (NFI)", THUS HINDERING THE VENEZUELAN COMMANDERS FLEXIBILITY. THEY ALSO ARE CONVINCED CHAVEZ SUPPORTS THE FARC AND ELN IN COLOMBIA. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE CANO LIMON OIL PIPELINE IS ATTACKED AND ITS FLOW TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED, THE OIL FIELD PRESSURE INCREASES AND ALLOWS VENEZUELAN OIL PUMPS TO EXTRACT SURGING OIL MORE QUICKLY ON THEIR SIDE. (b)(1)

(b)(1) [REDACTED] CLAIMED TO HAVE "REPORTS" THAT SUGGESTED WITH THE INCREASED OIL REVENUE GENERATED AS A RESULT, VENEZUELA/CHAVEZ REPAY THE FARC AND ELN FOR THEIR ATTACKS, PRIMARILY IN THE FORM OF ARMS. (b)(1) [REDACTED] ALSO CONFIRMED THAT VENEZUELA IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF INCREASING THE DIAMETER OF ITS PIPELINES, BEGUN IN JANUARY WHEN A SURGE IN PIPELINE ATTACKS BEGUN, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR THROUGH-PUT CAPACITY TO BETTER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CANO LIMON PIPELINE ATTACKS.

COMMENTS: 1. (S) (b)(1),(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424 [REDACTED]

2. (S) [REDACTED]

(b)(2)