

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CDS

RTTCZYUW RUEHCVA0979 3302006-~~CCCC~~--RHEFDIA RHEFSNG.

ZNY-~~cccccc~~

DTG

262006Z NOV 02

FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) VENEZUELA (VE).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424 ~~SUBJECT: IIR~~ VENEZUELAN ARMY PARTICIPATES IN
THE MILITARIZATION OF CARACAS (U)

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20021119.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, EL NACIONAL, CARACAS, VENEZUELA,
20021117 AND 20021118 (U), IN SPANISH. LIBERAL LEADING
DAILY; GENERALLY RELIABLE.

SUMMARY: (U) VENEZUELAN ARMY UNITS FROM FUERTE TIUNA, UNDER
ORDERS FROM THE CARACAS GARRISON COMMANDER, INVOLVED IN
HELPING THE ((CHAVEZ)) GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER METROPOLITAN
POLICE STATIONS. THE ARMY REFUSES TO DISCUSS THEIR
PARTICIPATION.

TEXT: 1. (U) DURING THE EVENING OF 20021116, BOTH NATIONAL
GUARD AND ARMY UNITS PARTICIPATED IN AN OPERATION TO TAKE
CONTROL OF ALL METROPOLITAN POLICE STATIONS IN CARACAS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL GUARD CARRIED OUT MOST OF THE OPERATION, ARMY SOLDIERS FROM AT LEAST THREE BATTALIONS IN FUERTE TIUNA ALSO PARTICIPATED. ARMY UNITS KNOWN TO HAVE PARTICIPATED INCLUDE ONE EACH MILITARY POLICE, ARMOR AND SIGNAL BATTALIONS, ALL ASSIGNED TO FUERTE TIUNA. MEDIA SOURCES OBSERVED ARMY SOLDIERS TAKING OVER THE FOLLOWING POLICE STATIONS.

- ZONE 6 IN LOS CAOBOS
- ZONE 2 IN CATIA
- ZONE 7 IN BOLEITA
- ZONE 3 IN CARICUAO
- THE SAN ANDRES COMISARIA
- MARIPEREZ MOTORIZED BRIGADE
- HEADQUARTERS IN EL HATILLO

(b)(3):10 USC 424

2.

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

TELEVISION REPORTS ALSO SHOWED SOLDIERS AT METRO (SUBWAY) AND BUS STATIONS.

3. (U) DURING HIS WEEKLY TELEVISION SHOW ON 20021117, PRESIDENT HUGO ((CHAVEZ)) COMMENDED HIS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, DIOSDADO ((CABELLO)) FOR ORDERING AND CARRYING OUT THIS OPERATION. CHAVEZ STATED IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO STEP IN AND PROVIDE CARACAS SECURITY SINCE CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO ((PENA)) HAD PROVEN INCAPABLE OF PERFORMING THIS CRITICAL FUNCTION. CHAVEZ DEFENDED THE USE OF MILITARY FORCES SAYING THE CONSTITUTION ALLOWS THEIR USE WHEN NEEDED TO RESTORE ORDER.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STREETS, RESPONDING TO CALLS FOR HELP, ETC. THE ARMY ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM METRO AND BUS STATION DUTY.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) [REDACTED] VENG UNITS, IN LARGE NUMBERS, 30-50 SOLDIERS, GUARDING THE PERIMETER AND ENTRANCE TO SEVERAL POLICE STATIONS. THE STRONG CRITICISM LEVIED BY THE MEDIA AT THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE MILITARIZATION OF CARACAS MIGHT HAVE BEEN

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

ADMIN

(b)(3):10 USC 424

WARNING: (U) ~~REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL~~.

~~DRVD FM: DO HUMINT SCG, MAR 02~~

~~DECL ON: XI~~

BT

#0979

EDA2

NNNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~