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HEADER

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CONTROLS

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SECTION 01 OF 02

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

BODY

SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH INTSUM--LATIN AMERICA 188-92/16 SEP 92

(U) THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS INTSUM HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY

DIA

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VENEZUELA: MORE TROUBLE THIS FALL? (U)

AS OF 16 SEP 92

MAJOR POINTS

1. ~~(S)~~ PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS SURVIVED IN OFFICE SINCE THE FEBRUARY
COUP ATTEMPT

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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(b)(1),1.4 (c)

ON 11 SEPTEMBER PEREZ PRAISED THE COUNTRY'S 8.5-PERCENT ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, CALLING VENEZUELA A TEST CASE FOR LATIN AMERICA. HE NOTED THAT THE GROWTH WAS ACCOMPLISHED DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL TURBULENCE AND THE CURRENT SLUMP IN OIL PRICES. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REPORTED A DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT FROM 10 PERCENT TO 8.4 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES AND JOBS, AND AN INCREASE IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY.

(b)(1),1.4
(c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) CARACAS ANNOUNCED THAT THREE MAFIA KINGPINS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WERE DEPORTED TO ITALY LAST WEEK. MEANWHILE, THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO PURSUE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST A NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT LABOR LEADER, ANTONIO RIOS.

5. ~~(S)~~ DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATING HAS FALLEN OVER THE SUMMER, AND ACCORDING TO A POLL, FOR THE FIRST TIME A MAJORITY NOW FAVORS PEREZ' IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION.

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(b)(1),1.4 (c)

THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE RECENTLY PLAYED UP SEVERAL SCANDALS LINKING
MILITARY PERSONNEL TO CORRUPTION,

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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OUTLOOK

10. ~~(S)~~ IN PUBLIC, PEREZ CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE SITUATION HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, AND HE HAS PRAISED THE MILITARY FOR ITS CONDUCT DURING AND SINCE THE COUP ATTEMPT.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

~~(DECL OADR)~~

ADMIN

#1718

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