

Venezuela

76

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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IMMEDIATE
UNCLASSIFIED

Unclassified message referring
to this message by cite number
will be designated EFTO

FROM: US AMBASSADOR CARACAS

TO : SECSTATE WASH, DEPT ARMY, DEPT NAVY, DEPT AIR, POLAD
USCINCSO, POLAD USCINCLANT

NR : 639 301620Z 30/11:55 AM NOV 63
SIGNED STEWART

Chenault Kidnapping

I spoke with President this morning re Chenault Case. He said he had received same letter from Moncade Vidal sent also to UPI (EmbTel 637). Stated that of course gov could not rpt not accept the offer and explained he convinced no rpt no harm could come to the Colonel. Said it was time for "cold nerves" and observed that FALN well aware that gov had "large number of hostages in its hands."

All DIGEPOL and PTJ Forces are actively working on case. President sure that the captors will have to release Chenault. After that there would be nation wide hunt for abductors.

President sending an aide to visit Mrs. Chenault this morning.

NOTE: Adv cy sent to DCSOP CC and ACSI at 301744Z Nov 63.

NOTE: 637 is DA IN 156037 (29/NFT Nov 63) ACSI

ACTION: ACSI

DISTR : OCS, ACSFOR, CMC , DCSPER, OSA, DCSOP, TAG, JCS,
OSD

DA IN 156575

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*Drug am
Clifton* *Have copies*

V Bundy

29 November

2:05 PM

NMCC reports the following: (Received from US CINC SO)

Colonel Chenault well as of 281640Z. From anonymous telephone call, indications are he will NOT be released until 1 December elections. At 291230Z Chief USIF informed Chief US Army Mission that a local French Press Agency received a telephone call reported to be from a member of the FALN, that Chenault would be released when the Venezuelan Government releases the 6 individuals who hijacked the Venezuelan aircraft 28 Nov.

(CinCSO) stated local news conference on release considered necessary. Representatives of Venezuelan Public Information and USIF will be present to assist in preparation of questions and responses.

USIF coordinating. US Embassy approves. As soon as released debriefing by Venezuelan Intelligence Personnel and police is authorized.

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Venezuela

79

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57

Action MNNKX B TESA163RSA067
 OO RUEHCR
 ARA DE RUESRS 403 29/2240Z
 O 292235Z ZEA
 Info FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 SS TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
 G RUEPCR/DEPT ARMY
 SP RUECW/DEPT NAVY
 L RUEAHQ/DEPT AIR
 H RULPC/POLAD USCINCSO
 CAP RUCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT
 EUR STATE GRNC
 AYD BT

1963 NOV 29 PM 6 57

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 IMMEDIATE (637) REPEATED ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCSO, POLAD
 CINCLANT.

SITUATION REPORT 6 P.M. NOVEMBER 29.

UNITED PRESS BUREAU HERE RECEIVED WRITTEN COMMUNICATION THIS
 AFTERNOON SIGNED BY JUAN DE DIOS MONCADA VIDAL, "EXECUTIVE
 COMMANDANT FALN GENERAL STAFF" OFFERING TO EXCHANGE COL.
 CHENAULT FOR "ALL WOMEN DETAINED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES".
 LETTER GIVES NAMES OF 42 WOMEN AND STATES THERE ARE "MORE THAN
 SEVENTY" INVOLVED. GOES ON TO SAY "FOR YOUR TRANQUILITY WE
 STATE THAT THE LIFE OF COL. CHENAULT IS NOT RPT NOT UNDER ANY
 RISK, HE IS ENJOYING PERFECT HEALTH AND IS BEING GIVEN TREATMENT
 COMMENSURATE WITH HIS RANK".

PAGE TWO RUESRS 403 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IMMEDIATE
 LETTER CONTINUES "EQUALLY, THROUGH YOUR GOOD OFFICES, WE STATE
 TO THE DICTATORSHIP THAT IT MUST NOT ATTEMPT REPRISALS AGAINST
 INDEFENSIBLE PERSONS, NOR MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTIES,
 ACTIVISTS OF THE FLN NOR MEMBERS OF THE FALN. THE INCREASE OF
 OFFICIAL REPRESSION WOULD RESULT ONLY IN COMPLICATING THE
 SITUATION OF THE PRISONER, OF OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS EMBASSY,
 AND OF THE DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT. OUR COMMAND HAS TAKEN THE
 NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION TAKEN
 AGAINST ELECTORAL FRAUD THROUGH WHICH THE BETANCOURT GOVERNMENT
 HOPES TO CONTINUE IN POWER FOR THE DISGRACE OF THE COUNTRY."

THIS COMMUNICATION WAS RECEIVED SHORTLY AFTER WORD RECEIVED FROM
 AFP THAT A SUPPOSED FATN TELEPHONE CALL OFFERED TO EXCHANGE THE
 SIX AIRPLANE HIJACKERS FOR CHENAULT (EMBTTEL 632). AFP NOW SAYS
 THAT CALLER ALSO STATED "IF THEY DO NOT RPT NOT RETURN OUR

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-2- 637, NOVEMBER 29, FROM CARACAS

COMRADES WE CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF COL. CHANAULT".

EMBASSY INCLINED GIVE MORE CREDENCE TO COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY UPI THAN TO AFP PHONE CALL, REALIZING HOWEVER THAT IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT SORT OUT ACTUAL FALN CONTACTS FROM CALLS OF CRANKS. NEVERTHELESS BOTH OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS APPEAR DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO SQUEEZE LAST POSSIBLE DROP OF PROPAGANDA FROM THE CHENAULT KIDNAPPING ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT OF COURSE DISCOUNT INHERENT THREAT CONTAINED THEREIN. SIGNATURE OF MONCADA ON THIS LETTER SIMILAR TO THAT OF EARLIER FALN DOCUMENTS IN EMBASSY FILES.

PAGE THREE RUESRS 403 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IMMEDIATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS RE-INSTITUTED ROVING POLICE PATROLS WHICH WILL KEEP HOMES OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL UNDER CONTINUING SURVEILLANCE. THESE PATROLS WERE SET UP LAST JUNE BUT WERE DISCONTINUED SOMETIME AGO. ALL U.S. PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN CAUTIONED TO STAY HOME AND NOT ROAM THE STREETS, PARTICULARLY AFTER DARK.

IN PAMPHLETS APPEARING IN CARACAS THIS AFTERNOON FALN WARNED THAT AFTER MIDNIGHT TONIGHT ANY PERSON SEEN ON THE STREETS WOULD BE SHOT. FALN STATED CARACAS WAS TO BE A "DEAD CITY" FOR THREE DAYS, I.E. UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

IN ANY EVENT, MILITARY FORCES ARE EXPECTED TO SART INTENSIVE PATROLLING OF CITY TONIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. THIS HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME. STEWART
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-0 11/29/63 7:10 P.M.

NOTE: PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE 11/29/63 7:20 P.M.

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Action

ARA

ZCZCSCAT017 NOV 29

~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
~~ALEXANDER~~

Info

ESA084RSA046

~~BELK~~
~~BRUBECK~~

SS

DE RUESRS 390 29/1936Z

~~CHASE~~
~~DINGECMN19269~~

G

O 291933Z ZEA

~~DUNGAN~~
~~ECKEIL 963 NOV 29 PM 3 02~~

SP

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

~~FORRESTAL~~

L

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

~~JOHNSON~~

H

RUEPCR/DA WASHDC

~~KILDUFF~~

CAP

RUECW/CNO WASHDC

~~KLEIN~~

EUR

RUEAHQ/CUSAF WASHDC

~~KOMER~~

P

RULPC/CINCSO

~~SAUNDERS~~
~~SCHLESINGER~~

USTIA

RUCKHC/CINCLANT

~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

NSC

STATE GRNC

FILE COPY

INR

BT

L I M I T E D O F F I C I A L U S E

CIA

ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT 632 IMMEDIATE PORT OF SPAIN 15
ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD CINCSO POLAD CINCLANT FROM CARACAS
NOV 29 3PM

NSA

OSD

SCA

RMR

CHENAULT KIDNAPPING

SIX HIJACKERS OF AVENSA CONVAIR WHICH LANDED IN TRINIDAD NOV-
EMBER 28 RETURNED TO VENEZUELA UNDER CUSTODY EARLY MORNING
NOVEMBER 29. NOT CLEAR WHETHER WILL BE TRIED IN MILITARY OR
CIVIL COURT.

SEVERAL NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING AGENCE FRANCE
CFN 632 15 29 3PM 28 29

PAGE TWO RUESRS 390 L I M I T E D O F F I C I A L U S E
PRESSE AND EL NACIONAL, RECEIVED PHONE CALLS THIS NOON, SUP-
POSEDLY FROM FALN SPOKESMEN, STATING THAT FALN WOULD RELEASE
COL. CHENAULT IN EXCHANGE FOR AVENSA HIJACKERS. EMBASSY AS YET
UNABLE CONFIRM AUTHENTICITY THESE CALIS. STEWART
BT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 11/29/63, 3:09 P.M.
" ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-0 , 11/29/63, 3:05 P.M.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

13737

Venezuela 81

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

46

Origin ACTION: Amembassy CARACAS PRIORITY 2378

ARA

Nov 29 8 40 PM '63

Info:

SS At noon briefing November 29 State Department spokesman
 G
 SP Richard I. Phillips said Department had had several inquiries
 L
 H about announcement of Venezuelan Government concerning arms cache
 SAL
 ADPS and read following statement concerning it:
 CAP
 EUR QUOTE Announcement by Government of Venezuela that weapons
 FE
 MC contained in arms cache discovered on beach of Paraguana Peninsula
 P
 USIA on November 3 are of Cuban origin is further dramatic confirmation
 NSC
 INR that Castro regime is pursuing active policy of indirect aggression
 CIA
 NSA in this hemisphere. It gives lie to Castro's repeated protesta-
 OSD tions that Cuba exports its Communist revolution only by example.
 ARMY
 NAVY Evidence presented by Venezuelan Government demonstrates
 AIR
 RMR that Castro regime is fomenting violence in other American
 Republics, not only with subversive propaganda, funds and
 trained agents, but, also, with weapons and ammunition.

Foreign Ministers of American Republics at their meeting
 in Punta del Este in January 1962 issued a clear warning that

Drafted by: ARA/P:LRGreenup 11g 11/29/63
 Telegraphic transmission and Classification approved by: ARA/P - Mr. King

Clearances:
 EST/V - Mr. Moskowitz
 CCA - Mr. Crimmins
~~ARA - Mr. Phillips~~
 ARA - Mr. Martin
 P - Mr. Thurkield (subs)

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Classification

continental unity, and democratic institutions of hemisphere were endangered by subversive offensive of international communism.

Discovery of Cuban arms cache in Venezuela while demonstrating growing capacity of Hemisphere to detect and frustrate Cuban subversive efforts also sounds a new alert calling for redoubling of vigilance by American Republics.

Foreign Ministers also urged governments INNERQUOTE to take those steps that they may consider appropriate for their individual and collective self-defense, and to cooperate to strengthen their capacity to counteract continued intervention in this Hemisphere of Sino-Soviet powers. END INNERQUOTE.

United States continues to take measures of its own to keep watch over aggressive intentions and capabilities of Castro Regime, and continues to assist other American Governments to strengthen their internal security.

With regard to Venezuelan intention to present matter to OAS, United States stands ready to work with other governments in this Hemisphere in cooperative efforts to increase surveillance against and to thwart further attempts by Castro Regime to export arms and men for subversive purposes. UNQUOTE. End of prepared statement.

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In lengthy series questions newsmen sought have Department spokesman enlarge upon or interpret various points in statement.

Asked whether Rio Treaty would be invoked, Spokesman replied he did not know. Asked what Rio Treaty would require be done at this point, spokesman replied: QUOTE I am not going to speculate what the Venezuelans may request. UNQUOTE.

Asked what meant by reference in statement to cooperative efforts to increase surveillance, spokesman said: QUOTE We have been giving assistance to other American Governments to strengthen their internal security. UNQUOTE. Asked if that meant joint patrols, spokesman replied QUOTE No, I am not aware of any joint patrols that are being carried out. UNQUOTE.

One newsman thought wording of statement suggests that United States is standing by waiting for Venezuelans to ask OAS to take specific action, but Venezuelans haven't said specifically what is to be done. Spokesman replied: QUOTE that's my understanding. UNQUOTE.

To suggestion that Venezuelans have requested Foreign Ministers Meeting, spokesman replied: QUOTE I don't believe they have yet formally requested of Secretariat or Council of OAS that OAS meeting be called for this. I wouldn't want to anticipate their official

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request to OAS. UNQUOTE.

Asked if discovery arms cache indicated increase in Cuban efforts and activities throughout Hemisphere, spokesman said discovery in itself is not repeat not indication of increased Cuban activities.

Asked if statement of U. S. readiness would lay ground work for increased cooperation with Venezuela in helping them through election period this coming weekend, spokesman replied: QUOTE I am not aware that they have requested any assistance in connection with election. UNQUOTE

Asked whether discovery arms cache November 3 was result of increase in surveillance by U. S. and other American Republics, spokesman replied he thought that that conclusion could be drawn.

Asked if arms were Cuban-manufactured, or were Soviet arms, spokesman replied: QUOTE Modern laboratory techniques have been developed to a point where it is possible to raise serial numbers and shields (that is, stamp of country's shield on gun, or whatever it may be) even though efforts might have been made to erase them. Venezuelan Armed Forces have facilities for making these tests, and Venezuelan Government consulted U. S. arms technicians on their findings. Our technicians confirmed findings of Venezuelans. We

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are satisfied that evidence in hands of Venezuelan Governments establishes beyond doubt Cuban origin of arms cache. UNQUOTE

Asked if newsmen could speculate that these laboratory investigations were reason why announcement was delayed for three weeks after discovery of cache, spokesman replied: QUOTE It could be. Yes, I think you could speculate along those lines, if you wish. UNQUOTE

Asked to report status kidnaped Col. Chenault, spokesman said QUOTE Embassy has reported no new significant developments in case. Venezuelans are continuing vigorous efforts to apprehend kidnapers. UNQUOTE Asked if U. S. regarded kidnaping of Colonel as Cuban-inspired act, spokesman replied: QUOTE Well, kidnapers have not identified themselves. But I would say that it is likely that this is another in series of Communist-led acts of terrorism that Venezuela has been experiencing. UNQUOTE

Asked what U. S. is doing about Chenault kidnaping, spokesman replied: QUOTE We are doing everything we can to cooperate with Venezuelan Government in its efforts. UNQUOTE.

Asked if U. S. is making no representations to Cuban regime re Chenault, spokesman replied QUOTE No. UNQUOTE.

END.

RUSK

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

13572

Venezuela

82

INDICATE: COLLECT
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Origin

ACTION: ~~VENEZUELA~~ ~~EMBASSY~~ ~~CARACAS~~ ~~PROBATION~~

ARA

CIRCULAR: All ARA Diplomatic Posts and POLADS 933

Nov 29 7 11 PM '63

Info:

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ADPS

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In accordance instructions ^{from} VEN FONMIN received this p.m. LPT

VEN Ambassador is requesting Special Meeting COAS December 3 in order seek invocation Rio Treaty in connection Cuban arms cache.

Following frequently used formula COAS will be requested:

1. Formally to convoke Meeting of Foreign Ministers as Organ of Consultation (MFM/OC) under Article 6, date and place to be later determined.
2. To decide to act itself meanwhile provisionally as OC.
3. As such to appoint Investigating Committee to proceed VEN examine proofs and make report in due course.

According instructions, which Department has seen, Falcon x has in mind that meeting of MFM/OC to consider report and possible action would be fixed later and would immediately

follow

Drafted by: **ARA/RPA:WPAllen:md 11/29/63**

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

ARA/RPA - Mr. Allen

Clearances:

EST-PA

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follow proposed MFM on Representative Democracy and be held
in the same place. As Embassy aware date and place of latter
still undetermined and indefinite.

End

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Venezuela

83

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57
 Action PP RUEHCR 1963 NOV 28 PM 5 50
 DE RULGTC 005 28/2200Z
 P 282155Z ZEA
 ARA FM AMEMBASSY PORTOFSPAIN
 Info TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
 SS INFO RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 G STATE GRNC
 SP BT
 L ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ACTION DEPT PRIORITY (212) INFO
 H PRIORITY CARACAS 17 FROM PORTOFSPAIN NOVEMBER 28, 6 P.M.

CAP SUBJECT: HIJACKERS OF VENEZUELAN PLANE
 EUR
 P FOLLOWING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DEPT, I HAVE
 USIA EMPHASIZED TO SEALEY, PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY EXTERNAL
 NSC AFFAIRS, USG VIEW HIJACKERS SHOULD BE RETURNED VENEZUELA
 INR AND ARGUMENTS FOR SUCH ACTION. I ALSO STRESSED IMMINENCE
 CIA VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS, USG CONCERN, SHARED BY GOTT, FOR PRESERVATION
 NSA AND EXTENSION DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN LATIN AMERICA AND NECESSITY
 OSD ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND GOVTS COOPERATE AGAINST EXTREMISTS
 CFN 212 17 28 6
 ARMY
 NAVY
 AIR PAGE TWO RULGTC 005 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 RMR AND TERRORISTS LIKE FALN.

SEALEY SAID GOTT HAD NOT YET TAKEN DEFINITIVE DECISION SINCE
 KEY CABINET MINISTERS HAD BEEN TIED UP IN MEETINGS OF HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES. HE FELT CONFIDENT PLANE AND LEGITIMATE
 PASSENGERS AND CREW WOULD BE RETURNED TO VENEZUELA, PROBABLY
 TOMORROW MORNING AND HE HAD RECOMMENDED HIJACKERS BE
 RETURNED SEPARATELY. GOV, HE BELIEVED, WOULD BE WILLING
 SEND PLANE FOR THEM. AS FAR AS SEALEY AWARE HIJACKERS HAD NOT
 FORMALLY REQUESTED ASYLUM AND HE HOPED THEY WOULD NOT AS SUCH
 REQUEST MIGHT COMPLICATE GOTT DECISION. ANY CASE GOTT BASIC
 POSITION, WHICH HE BELIEVED AND HOPED WOULD BE OPERATIVE, WAS
 THAT TRINIDAD SHOULD NOT BE USED AS BASE OR SPRINGBOARD FOR
 THOSE ATTEMPTING OVERTHROW LEGITIMATE GOVTS IN AREA.

SEALEY AGREED PASS USG VIEWS TO WILLIAMS AND TO INFORM US
 ASAP OF GOTT DECISION.

GP73. MINER
 BT
 CFN GP-3

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 E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
 By spj/cbm, NARA, Date 3-1-06

Note: Advance Copy To S/S-O 11/28/63 5:53 P.M.
 Note: Passed To White House 11/28/63 6:00 P.M.

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- ~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
- ~~ALEXANDER~~
- ~~BELK~~
- ~~BRUBECK~~
- ~~CHASE~~
- ~~DINGEMAN~~
- ~~DUNGAN~~
- ~~ECKEL~~
- ~~FORRESTAL~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
- ~~KILDUFF~~
- ~~KLEIN~~
- ~~KOMER~~
- ~~SAUNDERS~~
- ~~SCHLESINGER~~
- ~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

84

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39-M

Action OO RUEHC
 DE RULGTC 003 28/1440Z
 SCS ZNR
 Info O P 281437Z
 FM AMEMBASSY PORTOFSPAIN
 TO RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 G INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
 L STATE GRNC
 H BT

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UNCLAS ACTION IMMEDIATE CARACAS 15 INFO PRIORITY DEPT 210
 FROM PORTOFSPAIN TWENTY-EIGHTH

AVENSA FLIGHT NO. 504 FROM CIUDAD BOLIVER TO MAIQUETIA WAS HIJACKED SHORTLY AFTER TAKE OFF FROM CIUDAD BOLIVER THIS A.M. BY FIVE YOUNG MEN AND ONE GIRL WHO PRODUCED WEAPONS; HIJACKERS TOOK OFF EMERGENCY DOOR AND FORCED PLANE FLY LOW OVER CIUDAD BOLIVER WHERE FALN ANTI-ELECTION PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS DROPPED, ACCORDING AMERICAN PASSENGER. PLANE THEN BROUGHT TO PIARCO WHERE HIJACKERS REQUESTING ASYLUM.

ALL PASSENGERS SAFE AND PLANE WILL BE RETURNED WHEN POSSIBLE.
 CFN 15 210 AVENSA 504 FALN

PAGE TWO RULGTC 003 U N C L A S

ONE AMERICAN ABOARD WAS EDWARD RICHARDS, KOPPERS COMPANY OF PITTSBURG. RICHARDS WAS ENROUTE TO MAIQUETIA TO MEET WIFE WHO DUE ARRIVE GUEST AIRLINES FLIGHT 421 FROM MEXICO AT 15:05 TODAY.

RICHARDS REQUESTS THAT MRS. RICHARDS BE ASSURED THAT HE IS ALRIGHT, AND THAT SHE WOULD STAY AT MACUTO SHERATON IF HE IS UNABLE TO REACH MAIQUETIA IN TIME TO MEET HER. ALSO REQUESTS THAT ROBERT EAKINS, KOPPERS OF VENEZUELA, CARACAS BE INFORMED.

NAMES HIJACKERS LATER. MINER
 BT
 CFN 421 15:05

Three by dest

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Action
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~~FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS~~
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEPCR/DEPT OF ARMY
RUECW/DEPT OF NAVY
RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR
RUJLPCR/POLAD USCINCSO
RUJCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT
STATE GRNC
BT

1963 NOV 28 PM 9 34 018565

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

ACTION DEPT IMMEDIATE (627) INFO ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD USCINCSO
POLAD USCINCLANT UNN FROM CARACAS NOVEMBER 28 - 9PM

AS OF 8:20 PM SEVERAL RUMORS, TIPS. ANNONYMOUS CALLS, BUT NO
TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENTS RE CHENAULT KIDNAPPING.

EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE MESSAGE AT
5:20PM TODAY QUOTE PLEASE TELL THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE HAVE
RELEASED YOUR MAN AND HE IS NOW IN EL PARAISO UNQUOTE. IN
ABSENCE OF CORROBORATING DEVELOPMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT THREE
HOURS EMBASSY CONCLUDES REPORT FALSE POSSIBLY WORK OF PRANKSTER.
CFN 627 28 9PM 8:20PM 5:20 PM

PAGE TWO RUESRS 376-CONFIDENTIAL
ONE OTHER REPORT ABOUT 6PM THAT NEWS OF CHENAULT'S RELEASE WAS
BEING BROADCAST ON LOCAL RADIO STATION NOT YET VERIFIED.

MEDINA, EDITOR OF UNIVERSAL RECEIVED PHONE CALL ABOUT 8PM
ALLEGEDLY FROM FALN TO EFFECT THAT COL. CHENAULT HAD SPENT
THE AFTERNOON WITH MAXIMO CANALES AND THAT HE WAS FINE AND THAT
THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT LATER ON. MEDINA ALSO
CALLED BY PTJ SAYING THE LATTER THINK THEY KNOW CHENNAULT'S
WHEREABOUTS AND THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT LATER.

LATER EMBASSY RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL ALLEGEDLY FROM FALN
STATING THAT CHENNAULT WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL DECEMBER TWO
BUT WILL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF IN MEANTIME. STEWART

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 11/28/63, 9:38 PM

PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE 11/28/63, 9:45 PM

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Authority NIJ DOIR-74-6-13
By My ARA Date 9-18-14

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action JO RUEHC
DE RUESRS 372 28/2200Z
ZNR

ARA 0 232130Z

1 8 5 5 7

Info FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

1963 NOV 28 PM 7:05

SS TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

G INFO RUEPCR/DEPT OF ARMY

SP REUCW/DEPT OF NAVY

L RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR

H RULPC/POLAD USCINCSO

H RUCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT

§AL STATE GRNC

ADPS BT

CAP UNCLAS ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT (626) INFO ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD

EUR CINCLANT POLAD CI CSO UNN FROM CARACAS TWENTYEIGHTH

IO JOINT EMBASSY-USIS

MC CUBAN ARMS CACHE

USIA FOREIGN MINISTER FALCON THIS MORNING SUMMONED ALL LATIN AMERICAN
NSC AMBASSADORS AND AMBASSADORS FROM COUNTRIES WITH CARIBBEAN
INR INTERESTS (US, TRINIDAD, FRANCE, UK AND NETHERLANDS) TO
CIA CONFERENCE AT FONOFF. HE OPENED MEETING BY SAYING HE WAS
NSA PRESENTING A CASE OF "EXTREME GRAVITY", MENTIONING THAT
RMR ALMOST TWO YEARS BEFORE (NOVEMBER 1961) GOV HAD BROKEN
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA BECAUSE OF CUBAN SUBERSIVE
CFN 626 1961

PAGE TWO RUESRS 372 UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION IN VENEZUELA. NOW VENEZUELA HAD DEFINITE PROOF THAT THE
ARMS CACHE DISCOVERED ON THE PARAGUANA PENINSULA ON NOVEMBER TWO
HAD COME FROM CUBA. MINISTER OF DEFENSE BRICENO LINARES WHO
ALSO PRESENT SAID THAT VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES LABORATORIES
PROVED THAT THESE ARMS HAD COME FROM CUBA BUT THAT NEVERTHELESS
GOV HAD ASKED FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO CONFIRM THESE FINDINGS,
WHICH HAD BEEN DONE.

FALCON ASKED THE AMBASSADORS, DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE,
TO TRANSMIT FULL INFORMATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVTS. HE
PASSED OUT FOLDERS CONTAINING A COMMUNIQUE IN THIS REGARD AND
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ARMS IN QUESTION.

HE SAID THAT THE SHIELD OF CUBAN ARMY HAD BEEN RAISED ON
BELGIAN UZI SUBMACHINE GUNS WHICH HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE CACHE.
IN ADDITION GOV HAD DEFINITE PROOF THAT THE BELGIAN FN (FAL)

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-2- 626, November 28, From Caracas

7.62 MM NATO RIFLES WERE OF CUBAN ORIGIN. HE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN MANUFACTURER WAS PREPARED TO SUPPLY A LETTER FOR USE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANS TO THE EFFECT THAT THOSE RIFLES CONFORMED TO SPECIFICATIONS BELONGING TO A SHIPMENT OF THESE RIFLES SENT ONLY TO CUBA. SIMILAR TYPE RIFLES HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO BRAZIL, PERU ARGENTINA VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR BUT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS IT COULD BE PROVED THAT THE RIFLES IN QUESTION WERE ONLY SUPPLIED TO CUBA. (IN A LATER STATEMENT GEN. BRICENO SAID "WE ARE IN A POSITION TO SAY DEFINITELY THAT THESE ARMS CAME FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA").
CFN FN (FAL) 7.62 MM

PAGE THREE RUESRS 372 UNCLASSIFIED
CHIEF OF ARMY ORDANCE SHOWED TO THE AMBASSADORS EXAMPLES OF THE WEAPONS IN QUESTION.

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER GOV WOULD PRESENT THE CASE TO THE UN. FALCON REPLIED THAT IT MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE REGIONAL BODY FIRST BUT THAT OF COURSE THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE WOULD BE INFORMED AT THE TIME OF OAS CONSIDERATION.

THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT IN VIEW OF SUCH "AUTHENTIC" EVIDENCE WHAT GOV PLANNED TO DO IN OAS CIRCLES. FALCON REPLIED THAT GOV PLANNED TO BRING UP THE CASE DURING THE SPECIAL MFM TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE MFM CONVOKE THE COAS AS AN ORGAN OF CONSULATATION UNDER THE RIO TREATY.

FALCON POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TWO BASES ON WHICH GOV WOULD GO TO THE OAS, I.E. THE SENDING OF ARMS BY CUBA WAS AN ACT OF INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF VENEZUELA AND WAS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION.

FALCON INVITED THE AMBASSADORS AND/OR THEIR MILITARY ATTACHES TO VISIT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE THIS AFTERNOON TO INSPECT A GREATER ASSORTMENT OF THESE WEAPONS AND TO MAKE A MORE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT.

PAGE FOUR RUESRS 372 UNCLASSIFIED
THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED TO THE AMBASSADORS STATED AS FOLLOWS:

THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE WAR MATERIEL DISCOVERED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

-3- 626, November 28, From Caracas

BY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AT A POINT ON THE COAST OF THE PARAGUANA PENINSULA, FALCON STATE.

" THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, IN A COMMUNIQUE ON NOV 6. ANNOUNCED THAT THE REFERRED TO MATERIAL WAS OF FOREIGN SOURCE AND THAT THE OFFICIAL LABORATORIES AND TECHNICAL OFFICES WERE MAKING THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF THE DISCOVERED WAR MATERIEL. IT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THE REFERRED TO MATERIEL WAS COMPOSED OF SUBMACHINE GUNS, MORTARS, RECOILLES RIFLES, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, LIGHT AUTOMATIC RIFLES, AMMUNITION FOR THESE WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES FOR DEMOLITION. "THE STUDIES OF THE TECHNICAL OFFICES HAVING BEEN COMPLETED, THE GOVT INFORMS THE CITIZENS THAT IT HAS BEEN PROVED THAT THESE ARMS CAME FROM CUBA.

"FACED WITH THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION THE GOVT HAS INTENSIFIED AIR-NAVAL VIGILANCE OF THE COASTS, AND WILL INITIATE NECESSARY ACTION BEFORE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MULTILATERAL TREATIES OF WHICH VENEZUELA IS A PART, TO SAFEGUARD ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND THE EXISTENCE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS."

FOLLOWING FALCON'S MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADORS, GEN BRICENO MET WITH ABOUT FIFTY LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN.

STEWART

BT

CFN: 6

Note: Advance Copy To S/S-O 11/28/63 7:10 P.M.

Note: Passed To White House 11/28/63 7:19 P.M.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Janey

87

39

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Action

~~BUNDY-SMITH~~

ARA

~~ALEXANDER~~

~~BELK~~

~~BRUBECK~~

~~CHASE~~

~~DINGEMAN~~

~~DUNCAN~~

~~ECKEL~~

~~FORRESTAL~~

~~JOHNSON~~

~~KILDUFF~~

~~KLEIN~~

~~KOMER~~

~~SAUNDERS~~

~~SCHLESINGER~~

~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

Info

OO RUEHCR

SS DE RUEHCRS 367 28/1505Z

G O 281500Z ZEA

SP FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

L TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

H INFO RUEPCR/DEPT OF ARMY

RUECW/DEPT OF NAVY

CAP RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR

P RULPCR/POLAD USCINCSO

USIA RUCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT

NSC STATE GRNC

INR BT

CIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NSA ACTION DEPT IMMEDIATE (624) INFO ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD CINCSO POLAD
OSD CINCLANT UNN FROM CARACAS NOVEMBER 28 - 11AM

SCA RMR RAMON MEDINA, AN EDITOR OF DAILY EL UNIVERSAL CALLED EMBASSY TO
SAY THAT AT ABOUT 1000 RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM UNIDENTIFIED
WOMAN ASKED HIM TO PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY THAT COLONEL CHENAULT
IS SAFE AND HAD "ENJOYED HIMSELF" LAST NIGHT, AS HE WOULD
TONIGHT AND TOMORROW NIGHT.

STEWART

BT

CFN 624 28 11AM 1000

NOTE:

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 10:43 AM, 11/28/63.

PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 10:45 AM, 11/28/63.

018515

1963 NOV 28 AM 10 35

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Janet

88

39

~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
~~BELK~~

Action 00 RUEHC
DE RUESRS 364 28/1440Z
ARA ZNR

Info 0 281438Z
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
G INFO RUEPC/DEPT OF ARMY
RUECW/DEPT OF NAVY
SP RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR
L RULPC/POLAD USCINCSO
H RIJCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT
CAP STATE GRNC
P BT

~~BRUBECK~~
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~~DUNCAN~~
~~ECKEL~~
~~FORRESTAL~~
~~JOHNSON~~
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~~KLEIN~~
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~~SAUNDERS~~
~~SCHLESINGER~~
~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

0185114
1963 NOV 28 AM 10 35

USIA UNCLAS ACTION DEPT IMMEDIATE (623) INFO ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD CINCSO
NSC POLAD CINCLANT UNN FROM CARACAS TWENTYEIGHTH

INR CHENAULT KIDNAPPING

CIA STATUS REPORT 1000 NOVEMBER 28

NSA NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS DURING NIGHT. MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS
OSD STORY AS ALREADY REPORTED. SEVERAL CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
SCA "DEPLORE AND REPUDIATE" INCIDENT AS VIOLATION NATIONAL
RMR DIRNITY AND DEMAND IMMEDIATE RELEASE CHENAULT.

STEWART
BT

CFN 623 1000 28

Note: Passed White House 10:50 a.m. 11/28/63
Note: Advance copy delivered to SSO 10:47 a.m. 11/28/63

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MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Venezuela

89

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IMMEDIATE
UNCLASSIFIED

Unclassified message referring
to this message by cite number
will be designated EFTO

FROM: US AMBASSADOR CARACAS

TO : SEC STATE WASH DC

DTG : 27/8 AM

271245Z

NOV 63

ACTION DEPT IMMEDIATE 610, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCLANT,
POLAD CINCSO. FROM CARACAS. SGD STEWART

Commander US Military Group Venezuela advises that at 0700 today four unidentified men apparently kidnapped Colonel James Chenault, Deputy Chief US Army Mission. He was in official car on way to his office in Venezuelan Army Headquarters when incident occurred. No further details.

NOTE: Adv cy sent to OCS and ACSI at 271327Z Nov

ACTION: ACSI

DISTR : OCS, DCSOP, ACSFOR, JCS, CMC, OSA, DCSPER, OSD

DA IN 154544

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Department of State

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Action

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ESA006RSA003

1963 NOV 27 PM 7 43

Info

CO RUEHC
DE RUEERS 359 28/0015Z

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O 280014Z

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EMBASSY CARACAS

L

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

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INFO RUEPC/DEPT OF ARMY

CAP

RUECW/DEPT OF NAVY

P

RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR

USTA

RULPC/POLAD USCINCSO

NSC

RUCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT

INR

STATE GRNC

CIA

BT
UNCLAS ACTION DEPT IMMEDIATE (620) INFO ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD CINCLANT
POLAD CINCSO UNN FROM CARACAS TWENTYSEVENTH

NSA

SCA

RMR

RE: CHENAULT KIDNAPPING

AS OF 6:30 PM EMBASSY INFORMED BY EL UNIVERSAL TOP OFFICERS THAT THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY MESSAGE RE CHENAULT KIDNAPPING. PREVIOUS REPORT GIVEN EMBASSY BY ASSOCIATED PRESS WHICH NOW BELIEVES INFORMATION FALSE.

STEWART

BT

CFN 620 6:30 PM

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O, 11/27/63, 7:43 PM

PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE 11/27/63, 7:45 PM

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OO RUEHCR

Info

DE RUESRS 347 27/2155Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

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RUEAHQ/CUSAF WASHDC

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RULPCPOLAD CINCSO

CAP

RUCXHC/CINCLANT

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STATE GRNC

WSIA

BT

L I M I T E D O F F I C I A L U S E

NSC

ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT (617) ARMY NAVY AIR POLAD CINCLANT POLAD
CINCSO FROM CARACAS NOV 27 5PM

INR

CIA

NSA

OSD

REFEMBTLS 610,611,615

SCA

SCS

CHENAULT KIDNAPPING. STATUS REPORT 5:00 P.M.

RMR

EL UNIVERSAL NEWSPAPER WAS PHONED AT 4:00 PM THIS AFTERNOON AND
TOLD THAT CHENAULT WOULD BE RELEASED SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. STEWART

BT

CFN 617 27 5PM 610 611 615 5:00 PM 4:00 PM

Note: Advance copy to S/S-0 at 5:20 pm 11/27/63
Passed WhiteHouse at 5:30 pm 11/27/63

01819
1963 NOV 27 PM 5.19

- ~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
- ~~ALEXANDER~~
- ~~BELK~~
- ~~BRUBECK~~
- ~~CHASE~~
- ~~DINGERMAN~~
- ~~DUNN~~
- ~~EGAN~~
- ~~FORNESTAL~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
- ~~KILBURN~~
- ~~KLEIN~~
- ~~KOMER~~
- ~~SAUNDERS~~
- ~~SCHLESINGER~~
- ~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Jan 92

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COM
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~~BUNDY SMITH~~
~~ALEXANDER 18007~~

Rec'd: November 27, 1963
1:02 p.m.

FROM: Caracas
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 612, November 27, Noon

~~BRUBECK~~
~~CHASE~~
~~DINGEMAN~~
~~DUNGAN~~
~~ECKEL~~
~~FORRESTAL~~
~~JOHNSON~~
~~KILDUFF~~
~~KLEIN~~
~~KOMER~~
~~SAUNDERS~~
~~SCHLESINGER~~
~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

ACTION DEPARTMENT 612, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCSO, POLAD
CINCLANT UNNUMBERED

Afternoon of November 26 five armed terrorists held up Employees
Firestone Warehouse in Barquisimeto, Lara State. Took \$2,500
from safe, set fire to stock. No injuries. Damage estimated
\$50,000.

Also November 26 seven terrorists captured in attempt to blow
up television station in Valencia, Carabobo State. Offices
of Electoral Board in Villa de Cura, Aragua State, held up
by six armed terrorists; records set on fire.

Fire caused by sabotage of oil and gas lines near Naricual,
(EMBTel 602) Anzoategui State, extinguished fire November 26,
and five of eight lines now back in service. Damages not yet
estimated.

STEWART

JNA

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

James 93

37

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Action

Control: 17800

Rec'd: November 27, 1963

9:35 a.m.

ARA

FROM: Caracas

Info

SS

TO: Secretary of State

G

NO: 611, November 27, 10 a.m.

SP

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H

CAP

IMMEDIATE

P

USIA

ACTION DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE 611, INFORMATION, ARMY, NAVY, AIR POLAD, USCINCSO POLAD, USCINCLANT UNNUMBERED

NSC

INR

NSA

Re: EMBTEL 610

SCA

RMR

At approximately 0900 Embassy telephone operator received anonymous call (cultured male voice) to effect "don't worry about Colonel Chenault. We have him only for propaganda purposes".

Further details: Chenault was kidnapped at gunpoint in front of his home in Colinas De Bello Monte suburb as he was getting into chauffer driven official Venezuelan Army car. Kidnappers disabled Chenault's car, put him in another and drove off. Police have already recovered kidnap car which had been abandoned.

President Betancourt has assumed personal charge operation and has mobilized all law and order forces.

STEWART

SYT

Advance copy to S/S-0 11/27/63 at 9:47 a.m.

Passed White House 11/27/63 at 9:53 a.m.

Note: Passed to OSD, CIA 9:53 a.m.

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- ~~__~~ BUNDY-SMITH
- ~~__~~ ALEXANDER
- ~~__~~ BELK
- ~~__~~ BRUBECK
- ~~__~~ CHASE
- ~~__~~ DINGEMAN
- ~~__~~ DUNGAN
- ~~__~~ ECKEL
- ~~__~~ FORRESTAL
- ~~__~~ JOHNSON
- ~~__~~ KILDUFF
- ~~__~~ KLEIN
- ~~__~~ KOMER
- ~~__~~ SAUNDERS
- ~~__~~ SCHLESINGER
- ~~__~~ SMITH, W.M. Y.

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Jane
94

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37

Action

Control: 17685

Rec'd: November 27, 1963
8:14 a.m.

ARA
Info

FROM: Caracas

SS

TO: Secretary of State

G

NO: 610, November 27, 8 a.m.

SP

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IMMEDIATE

CAP

P

ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPARTMENT 610, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCLANT,
POLAD CINCSO UNNUMBERED.

USIA

NSC

INR

CIA

NSA

SCA

RMR

Commander US military group Venezuela advises that at 0700 today
four unidentified men apparently kidnapped Colonel James Chenault,
Deputy Chief US Army Mission. He was in official car on way to
his office in Venezuelan Army Headquarters when incident occurred,
No further details.

STEWART

JNA

Note: Advance copy to S/S-O 11-27-63, 8:20 a.m.

Note: Passed White House 11-27-63, 8:30 a.m.

- ~~___~~ BUNDY-SMITH
- ~~___~~ ALEXANDER
- ~~___~~ BELK
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- ~~___~~ CHASE
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- ~~___~~ SAUNDERS
- ~~___~~ SCHLESINGER
- ~~___~~ SMITH, WM. Y.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State *Venezuela*

95

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Action

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Info

016926

1963 NOV 25 PM 12 09

ESA031RSA024

SS RR RUEHCR
 G DE RUESRS 299 25/1641Z
 SP R 251634Z ZEA
 L RI AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 CAP TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
 JIB INFO RUEPCR/DEPTMF ARMY
 E RUECV/DEPT OF NAVY
 AID RUEAHQ/DEPT OF AIR
 P RULPC/POLAD USCINCSO
 USIA RUCKHC/POLAD USCINCLANT
 NSC STATE GRNC
 BT

L I M I T E D O F F I C I A L U S E

ACTION DEPT (602) INFO ARMY NAVY UR POLAD CINCLANT POLAD CINCSO
 UUN FROM CARACAS NOVEMBER 25 *NOON

ARMY FIVE OIL LINES AND ONE GAS LINE SABOTAGED EARLY MORNING
 NAVY OF NOVEMBER 25 AT POINT SOUTH OF NARICUAL ON PUERTO LA CUZ-
 AIR ANACO HIGHWQ. LINA INVOLVED ARE THIRTY, TWENTY-S AND
 COM SIXTEEN INCH MENE GRANDE OIL LINES, TWELVE INCH MENE GRANDE
 RMR GAS LINE, AND TWELVE AND SIXTEEN INCH MOBILE OIL LINES.
 SHAPED CHARGES PRESUMABLY USED. DUE TO SIZE OF RESULTING
 FIRE, EXTENT OF DAMAGE NOT YET KNOWN. STEWART
 BT
 CFN 602 25 25

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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

96

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (When Filled In) CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS *B.S. Smith*

25X1

COUNTRY VENEZUELA REPORT NO. [Redacted]
SUBJECT PIPE LINE SABOTAGE IN EASTERN VENEZUELA DATE DISTR. [Redacted]

1

DATE OF INFO. [Redacted] PRECEDENCE PRIORITY REFERENCES IN 67563

25X1

PLACE & DATE ACQ. APPRAISAL [Redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

25X1

SOURCE [Redacted]

1. DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF 25 NOVEMBER FIVE DIFFERENT PIPE LINES WERE BLOWN UP BY UNIDENTIFIED SABOTEURS AT A POINT NEAR NARICUAL. OIL FROM THESE LINES WAS BURNING FIERCELY.

2. LATER IN THE MORNING THE LARGEST MENI-GRANDE STORAGE TANK IN THE AREA WAS BLOWN UP CAUSING A VERY SERIOUS FIRE. ALL TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN PUERTO LA CRUZ AND EL TIGRE HAS BEEN CUT OFF AS A RESULT OF THESE FIRES.

25X1

3. [Redacted] COMMENT: THE PIPE LINES WERE BLOWN IN A STRATEGIC AREA A LARGE GULLY WHERE OIL FROM THE BROKEN PIPE ACCUMULATED IN LARGE QUANTITIES. ALL PIPE LINES ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY WERE IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR ~~XXX~~ OO

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

FORM 10-62

IK OBSOLETE

SANITIZED

Authority RAC-NLJ-001-074-6-18
By *ra/abm* NARA, Date 5-1-06

5X1

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(When Filled In)

IN 67563

PAGE 2

FLAMES AND A LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS LINE RUNNING THROUGH THE AREA IS IN DANGER OF EXPLODING)

4. [] DISSEM STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINCLANT CINCSO.

5X1

END OF MESSAGE

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Venez

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36

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Action

Control: 3781
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 6, 1963

CAP

FILE COPY 9:30 AM

Info

FROM: CARACAS

SS

TO: Secretary of State

G

SP

NO: 530, NOVEMBER 5, 7 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

L

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CAP

REFERENCE: AIDTO 264

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USIA

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ARMY

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- ~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
- ~~ALEXANDER~~
- ~~BELK~~
- ~~BRUBECK~~
- ~~CHASE~~
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- ~~DUNGAN~~
- ~~FORRESTAL~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
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- ~~KOMER~~
- ~~SANDERS~~
- ~~SCHLESINGER~~
- ~~SMITH, WM.~~

ALTHOUGH FULLY AWARE OF PRESSURES TO PHASE OUT AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS LOANS TO VENEZUELA IN 1966, I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT ELIMINATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IS UNWISE AND INCONSISTENT WITH CURRENT OVERALL U.S. POLICY PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA AS REPEATEDLY SET FORTH BY LATIN AMERICAN POLICY COMMITTEE AND HIGHER AUTHORITY.

1. AS DEPT AWARE ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA IN MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY IS A PRIMARY COMPONENT OF OUR OVERALL PROGRAM AND AID PLAYS AN IMPORTANT AND INCREASING ROLE THROUGH ITS PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM WHICH IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WILL ABSORB OVER 20 PERCENT OF AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS AND ABOUT A THIRD OF PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED AID PERSONNEL. NO ONE SENSITIVE TO SITUATION HERE, TO STATE OF POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES, AND TO COMMUNIST TACTICS COULD BELIEVE THAT WE COULD PRUDENTLY WITHDRAW FROM POLICE PROGRAM IN TWO YEARS IF SITUATION WITHIN VENEZUELA ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE. IF WE WERE TO DISMANTLE OUR ECONOMIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT NOT PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION, EFFECT LOCALLY WOULD BE THAT AID'S SOLE CONTRIBUTION UNDER ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS WOULD BE PROVISION OF COPS. MOREOVER, NO THOUGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DISMANTLING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH RUNS TO ABOUT \$3.2 MILLION ANNUALLY IN COST OF OUR MILITARY MISSIONS AND OTHER TRAINING COSTS AND \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY UNDER MILITARY CREDIT SALES PROGRAM, IF LATTER NOT INCREASED AS DISCUSSED. THUS, EFFECT OF WITHDRAWING AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WE PROJECT AT AROUND \$2 MILLION ANNUALLY WOULD BE TO PLACE VIRTUALLY OUR ENTIRE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NLJOSIR-746-14
By ly ARA Date 9-18-14

CONFIDENTIAL

-2- 530, NOVEMBER 5, 7 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO), FROM CARACAS

DIRECT COLLABORATION WITH GOV UNDER ALLIANCE IN FIELD OF ASSISTING ITS SUPPRESSIVE FORCES. NOT LEAST OF RISKS IN THIS COURSE WOULD BE CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC REACTION IN US IF (AS IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY) A COUP SHOULD IN FUTURE YEARS OCCUR AS WE WERE PHASING OUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND STEPPING UP COUNTER-INSURGENCY ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELAN MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES.

2. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOT ONLY IN VENEZUELA BUT ELSEWHERE TO UNDERSTAND WHY, WHEN US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC INSISTENT THAT LATIN AMERICA CARRY OUT REFORMS STIPULATED AT PUNTA DEL ESTE, COUNTRY WHICH IN FOREFRONT OF EFFORT TO DO SO SHOULD BE FIRST TO BE PENALIZED. ALLIANCE WOULD, IN EFFECT, BE ABANDONING IN MIDDLE OF DECADE ITS CLAIM TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO COUNTRY WHICH WILL POSSIBLY MAKE GREATEST PROGRESS UNDER IT.

3. EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE WOULD TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE BE ABANDONING OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE VENEZUELA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OBJECTIVES AND LINES OF ACTION SET FORTH IN OUR POLICY GUIDELINES, OUTLINE INTERNAL DEFENSE PLANS AND OTHER POLICY DOCUMENTS. WE CANNOT SET OVERALL COUNTRY GOALS AND THEN TAKE AWAY EVEN MODEST RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THEM. EXAMINATION OF DATA EMANATING FROM COMPREHENSIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM (CCPS) WILL SHOW THAT CONTINUED AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ESSENTIAL TO CARRYING OUT LINES OF ACTION LAPC HAS APPROVED AS PART OF INTEGRATED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE DESIRE HERE.

4. ARGUMENT THAT VENEZUELAN GOVT COULD PAY FOR OWN TECHNICIANS HAS MAJOR FLAWS IN IT FROM A US POINT OF VIEW. FIRST EXPERIENCE IN THIS ENVIRONMENT SHOWS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS LITTLE OR NON-EXISTENT VALUE UNLESS BACKED BY A VIGOROUS DIPLOMACY. OUR CURRENT VICISSITUDES WITH POLICE PROGRAM VIVIDLY SHOW THIS. SINCE TECHNICIANS RECOMMENDATIONS ALMOST INVARIABLY AFFECT VESTED INTERESTS OF LEVELS WITH WHICH THEY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-3- 530, NOVEMBER 5, 7 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO), FROM CARACAS

WORK, EFFECTIVE ACTION FREQUENTLY DEPENDS ON DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AT HIGHER ECHELONS. IN PAST VENEZUELA HAS ALSO HIRED OWN TECHNICIANS, AND ITS ARCHIVES LITERALLY CONTAIN HUNDREDS OF DISREGARDED REPORTS. SECONDLY, VENEZUELA WOULD HIRE TECHNICIANS OF THEIR CHOOSING FOR OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS THEY WANT, NOT TECHNICIANS OF TYPE WE WANT WHO WOULD EXERT INFLUENCE TOWARDS OUR GOALS AND CONCEPTS. PAST EXPERIENCE WOULD INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD BE OF DIVERSE NATIONALITIES AND IDEOLOGIES, AFFECTING ADVERSILY OUR AIMS OF INCREASING OUR TRADE AND INFLUENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. THEREFORE, QUITE APART FROM ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF THE US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PER SE, IS ITS VALUE AS A MEANS OF EXERTING INFLUENCE, AND IT IS CLEARLY APPARENT THAT THE INFLUENCING CAPABILITY OF THIS PROGRAM HAS GROWN ALMOST MIRACULOUSLY SINCE 1961. BEFORE THAT TIME, VENEZUELAN SIMPLY DID NOT TAKE THE ADVICE OF FOREIGNERS, ESPECIALLY FROM US GOVT EVEN WHEN SUCH ADVICE WAS ASKED FOR, AND WE NOW HAVE, AT A VERY SMALL COST, A CONTINUING CHANCE TO INFLUENCE DIRECTION OF INVESTMENT UNDER ALLIANCE CONCEPTS OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THIRDLY, TOTAL US AID TO VENEZUELA SINCE 1942 IS SO INSIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED TO PAST AND PRESENT AID PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT PHASE OUT AS AN ECONOMY MEASURE SEEMS MEANINGLESS. IN FACT, OUR MODEST INCREASE IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE PAID SUCH SIGNIFICANT DIVIDENDS THAT PHASE OUT WOULD APPEAR TO BE SO HEAVILY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AS TO COMPLETELY DWARF ANY BUDGETARY SAVING THUS REALIZED, NAMELY LESS THAN \$1.5 MILLION EXCLUDING PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM, WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE BY ANY STANDARD OF ORDINARY PRUDENCE.

STEWART

BAP

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

36

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Action RR RUEHCR
 CAP DE RUESRS 49 06/0200Z
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H ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

ARA
E 530 NOVEMBER 5 - 7PM SECTION TWO OF TWO

IGA 5. PHASING OUT OF AID WOULD CAUSE COMPLETE RE-EXAMINATION
 AID OF OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS SINCE THEY ARE ALL
 PC COORDINATED AND MUTUALLY REINFORCED UNDER COUNTRY
 P TEAM PROGRAMMING CONCEPT. FOR INSTANCE, IN FIELD OF YOUTH AND
 CU EDUCATION, AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS ONLY ONE COMPONENT
 USIA OF OVERALL EFFORT TO AFFECT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES
 NSC AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ABILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND PEACE
 INR CORPS, USUS, EMBASSY AND EVEN MILITARY MISSIONS HAVE ROLE.
 CIA A SAMPLE QUESTION WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ANSWERED WOULD BE
 NSA WHETHER IT WOULD BE REALLY WORTHWHILE TO HAVE EXPANDED PEACE
 OSD CFN 530 5 7PM 5.

ARMY PAGE TWO RUESRS 49 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 NAVY CORPS PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IF AID
 AIR ABANDONED ITS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE AND ASSIST MINISTRY OF
 TRSY EDUCATION IN TRANSFORMING SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM.
 RMR

6. PSYCHOLOGICALLY, THE ABANDONMENT OF THIS SMALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WOULD APPEAR TO LACK PROPORTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO THE EARNINGS OF US BUSINESS FIRMS IN VENEZUELA WHICH ARE CLOSE TO HALF A BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

7. POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF DECISION AT THIS TIME TO PHASE OUT COULD BE SERIOUS, EVEN IF NOT NOTIFIED TO GOV OR PUBLICIZED. ALREADY, WE ARE INHIBITED FROM DEVELOPING ROUNDED THOUGH MODEST PROGRAMS (FOR INSTANCE IN FIELD OF AGRARIAN REFORM) BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY RE FUTURE AVAILABILITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. AS NEW ADMINISTRATION ELECTED ON DEC FIRST, FORMULATES ITS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, IT COULD SCARECELY FAIL TO PERCEIVE THAT WE ARE LESS PREPARED TO SUPPORT IT THAN WE HAVE BEEN TO SUPPORT BETANCOURT REGIME. BEARING IN MIND THAT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2- 530, NOVEMBER 5, 7 PM, (SECTION TWO OF TWO) FROM CARACAS

BETANCOURT IS NOW MEASUREABLY MORE ORIENTED TOWARDS US VIEWS THAN ANY LIKELY SUCCESSOR, WE WOULD BE CONDEMNING OURSELVES AND OUR INTERESTS TO A MORE HOSTILE AND NATIONALISTIC.
CFN 6. 7.

PAGE THREE RUESRS 49 CONFIDENTIAL

CLIMATE THAN THE ONE IN WHICH WE NOW OPERATE. MOREOVER, SHOULD (AS NOW APPEARS LIKELY) WINNING CANDIDATE HAVE LESS THAN 49 PERCENT PLURALITY OF VOTES WHICH ELECTED BETANCOURT, SIGNS OF FALTERING US SUPPORT WILL NOT BE LOST ON HIS ENEMIES INCLUDING THOSE WHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED PUT AN END TO THIS COUNTRY'S EXPERIMENT IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY.

FOR THESE REASONS AND WITH UNANIMOUS CONCURRENCE OF COUNTRY TEAM, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE LAPC AND HIGHER AUTHORITY NOT CONCUR IN PHASE OUT DATE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RETAIN \$2 MILLION TARGET FIGURE WHICH HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED IN OUR INTERNAL DEFENSE PLAN, WITH ADJUSTMENTS TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY IN LIGHT OF APPROPRIATIONS. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS PERTAINS TO ONLY SMALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH SHOULD BE REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVEMENT OUT OBJECTIVES, AND NOT TO AID LOANS ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS AS NEITHER COUNTRY TEAM NOR GOV HAS REQUESTED ANY FOR FUTURE YEARS. WOULD ALSO URGE NO DECISION BE MADE ON PHASE OUT PROPOSAL EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF COUNTRY PROGRAM AS WHOLE.

RE FINAL PARA. OF AIDTO 264, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE USAID TO SUBMIT THE ALREADY PREPARED FY 65 CAP, WHICH CONTAINS PROVISION FOR REVISION THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION.
A 25 PERCENT REDUCTION WOULD PLACE THE TC PROGRAM AT A LEVEL
CFN 49 \$2 264 65 25

PAGE FOUR RUESRS 49 CONFIDENTIAL

OF \$1.5 MILLION (FY 63 OBLIGATIONS TOTALED \$2.0 MILLION AND STRATEGY STATEMENT AND CCPS RECOMMEND \$2.0 MILLION). ANY REDUCTION BELOW \$1.5 MILLION WOULD REQUIRE THE RESTRUCTURE AND REPLANNING OF THE PROGRAM SINCE ACROSS THE BOARD REDUCTION OF ALL PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY PUBLIC SAFETY, NOT FEASIBLE CONSIDERING SECURITY NEEDS AND US COMMITMENTS.

GP-3

STEWART

BT

CFN \$1.5 63 \$2.0 \$2.0 \$1.5 GP-3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: President's Speech at Venezuelan Pavilion

1. Attached is Jim Frey's speech for the President. It is O.K. with Angie Duke.
2. The bracketed portion on page 2 is optional.
3. O.K. with me, as amended,

GC
Gordon Chase

98a

SUGGESTED REMARKS BY
THE PRESIDENT AT
THE VENEZUELAN PAVILION, NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
MAY 9, 1964

I am very happy to be here at the official opening of the World's Fair pavilion of Venezuela. I want to pay special tribute today to the courage and steadfastness of the Venezuelan people and their government in their firm defense of democracy and independence and in their dedication to the Alliance for Progress.

~~Long a target for Castro-Communist subversion,~~ Venezuela has stood firm in devotion to freedom. Last December, ^{defying in defiance of} ~~despite~~ the ^{the efforts} fanatic attempts ^{of} by extremists ~~trained, directed, armed, and financed from Cuba~~ to prevent free elections, well over 90% of Venezuela's registered voters ^{ignored} defied personal danger and went to the polls -- and they voted for democracy and for a peaceful transfer of governmental authority. This is a record -- and a demonstration of patriotism -- for any nation to be proud of.

Recently, I had the pleasure of being visited by Venezuela's valiant former President, Romulo Betancourt. We discussed our hopes for the Alliance for Progress, to which President Betancourt and his country have contributed ^{greatly} ~~so much~~ by their example. The economic and social progress of Venezuela in the past few years,

going back even before
even pre-dating the inauguration of the Alliance, has been extraordinary.

Primary and secondary school enrollments have increased 70%. Thousands of classrooms have been built. Illiteracy has been halved. Pure water has been brought to 65% more people. 150,000 *farm* ~~land~~ workers have been provided with housing. 60,000 farm families have been settled in their own land.

Government and private industry are working together to bring about a diversified and balanced expansion of industry and agriculture. Total output is on the rise. ~~P~~ Prices are stable. ~~M~~ Monetary stability is being maintained.

Venezuelans are proud of their political and economic progress. They have a right to be. Venezuelans are confident of the future. They have a right to be.

~~And~~ ^{And} the United States is proud to have Venezuela as a friend and as a partner in the Alliance for Progress.

*Amel was it look forward with great pleasure to
with annual
a chance to visit you frequently and to see for myself a little
of what it offers to the ~~the~~ visitors all who visit it.*

May 8, 1964

986

Suggested Remarks by the President
at the Venezuelan Pavilion,
New York World's Fair - May 9, 1964

I am happy to be here at the official opening of the World's Fair pavilion of Venezuela. I want to pay special tribute today to the courage and steadfastness of the Venezuelan people and their government in their firm defense of democracy and independence and in their dedication to the Alliance for Progress.

Last December, in defiance of the efforts of extremists to prevent free elections, well over 90% of Venezuela's registered voters ignored personal danger and went to the polls -- and they voted for democracy and for a peaceful transfer of governmental authority. This is a record -- and a demonstration of patriotism -- for any nation to be proud of.

Recently, I had the pleasure of being visited by Venezuela's valiant former President, Romulo Betancourt. We discussed our hopes for the Alliance for Progress, to which President Betancourt and his country have contributed greatly by their example. The economic and social progress of Venezuela in the past few years, going back even before the inauguration of the Alliance, has been extraordinary.

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And the United States is proud to have Venezuela as a friend and as a partner in the Alliance for Progress.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



S/S-6639

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1964

Henry *sts* *99*
Bundy
Valenti

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: President's Attendance at Inauguration of
Venezuelan Pavilion at World's Fair in
New York

The Venezuelan Ambassador has informed the Department that the Venezuelan Pavilion at the New York World's Fair is to be inaugurated May 9. Fair officials have informed the Ambassador that President Johnson will visit the Fair on that date. Consequently, the Ambassador has asked the Department to invite President Johnson's presence at the inauguration.

Under moderate, progressive leadership, Venezuela is moving vigorously, and with notable success, to improve the general welfare of its people and to stimulate its economy; and is in the vanguard in Latin America in the promotion of social reform and economic development within a democratic, constitutional framework. Venezuela's progress presents a feasible alternative to violent revolution and is a real challenge to the communist design for Latin America.

The Department recommends that, if he is planning to visit the Fair on May 9, the President arrange to be present at the inauguration of the Venezuelan Pavilion. His attendance would be a significant demonstration of United States' support for the Leoni Government and its leadership in the Alliance for Progress.

Benjamin H. Read
Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By *xg/ctm* NARA, Date *3-1-06*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Venezuela
✓ 100

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 27, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Betancourt's Visit with the President

State tells me that the President's meeting with Betancourt last week went very well. Betancourt was delighted with his Washington visit and is convinced that the President intends to continue the basic Latin American policies of President Kennedy.

GC

Gordon Chase

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By mg/cbm, NARA, Date 3-1-06

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101

Wren

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
April 24, 1964

L. Thompson

2-21

*Done s/s 4/27
OP (for)*

s/s 6051

TO: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
The White House

FROM: Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Memorandum of conversation
between the President and
Former President of
Venezuela, Betancourt,
dated April 24

For approval prior to distribution.

The President's remarks are side-
lined in blue.

Attachment:

As stated.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATTACHMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 21, 1964

SUBJECT: Venezuelan Proposals for Meetings of Foreign Ministers on Cuban Aggression and Representative Democracy

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Mr. Rómulo Betancourt, Former President of Venezuela
Dr. Enrique Tejera-Paris, Ambassador of Venezuela
Sam Moskowitz, Chief of Venezuelan Affairs, ARA
Donald F. Barnes, Interpreter, OPR/IS

COPIES TO: S/S Amembassy CARACAS
S/P
G
ARA - 3
INR/OD - 2
The White House

Mr. Betancourt said he had two matters of substance he wished to bring to the President's attention.

The first matter was the Venezuelan initiative against Cuban aggression brought before the Organization of American States (OAS) under the Rio Treaty. Mr. Betancourt described the proposed Venezuelan resolution and stressed the importance of its being approved by a meeting of foreign ministers as a means of countering Cuban-supported insurgency, even if only by the required minimum of 13 supporting votes. He said it was particularly essential, in order to deter European countries from trading with Cuba, that the Venezuelan resolution be considered and approved by a meeting of foreign ministers.

The second matter was the joint Venezuelan-Costa Rican initiative to call a meeting of foreign ministers of the American states to consider a proposed resolution on strengthening representative democracy in Latin America. Mr. Betancourt expressed concern about the future of representative government in Latin America in view of the many military coups against elected governments during the last two years. He said the experience of the 1950's had demonstrated that Communism flourished and grew strong under the repressive governments of that period; and he feared history may repeat itself. While he believed that the Venezuelan military was not a threat to the elected government of his country, it was vital for the democratic and progressive development of Latin America that the proposed resolution be adopted in order to deter military coups d'etat.

The President

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 2 -

The President said that it was important that the Venezuelan resolution against Cuba be approved. He also agreed that representative democracy in Latin America should be strengthened. He said he would take these matters up with the Secretary of State and Mr. Mann and suggested that Mr. Betancourt also discuss them with Mr. Mann.

Ambassador Tejera-Paris said that they would be seeing Mr. Mann and would do so.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IN

1964 APR 23 PM 5 49

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

File Venezuela
[Signature]
102

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Request for Appointment for
Rómulo Betancourt, Former
President of Venezuela

Recommendation

I recommend that you receive Rómulo Betancourt, former President of Venezuela, during his two-day visit to Washington April 20 and April 21.

Approve _____ Disapprove ✓ _____

Discussion

Mr. Betancourt, whose term of office as President of Venezuela ended on March 11, 1964, is in the United States on a four-month vacation and has requested an appointment with you. He is at the peak of his prestige as one of the outstanding leaders of the democratic reform movement in Latin America. Your receiving Mr. Betancourt would demonstrate our recognition of the importance of the Venezuelan triumph of democracy over communism and our support of that country's enlightened leadership which has put it in the vanguard of the Alliance for Progress. Some suggested talking points and background information are enclosed, should it be possible for you to receive Mr. Betancourt.

[Signature]
Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

- 1. Talking Points and Background.
- 2. Biographic Sketch.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GROUP 3

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By *rg/cbm*, NARA, Date 3-1-06

Downgraded at 3-year intervals
not automatically declassified

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102a

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Item for You to Raise: It is suggested that you congratulate Mr. Betancourt for the progress his Administration brought to the people of Venezuela, and for the great courage and tenacity with which he demonstrated the feasibility of democracy in Latin America.

Items which Mr. Betancourt may Raise and Suggested Responses:

(1) Non-Recognition of Dictatorships: He may advocate that the United States support Venezuela's policy of non-recognition of Latin American governments that take power by overthrowing democratic, constitutional governments.

Suggested Response: We deplore coups d'état and unrepresentative government. However, in the absence of a consensus in the OAS on these matters, we continue to believe it in our interest to consider each case on its merits and to exert whatever influence we can to encourage earliest restoration of democratic government.

(2) Inter-American Sanctions against Cuba: He may urge strong, unqualified and public United States support for Venezuela's initiative in the Organization of American States for the adoption of sanctions against Cuba for its aggression against Venezuela.

Suggested Response: We are in complete accord with Venezuela on this matter and are giving the kind of support he desires.

(3) Non-Discrimination in U. S. Oil Import Restrictions: He may plead for equal treatment with Canada under the United States Oil Import Program by exempting Venezuela from import quotas or by hemispheric preferences for both.

Suggested Response: Venezuela's favorable position in our oil market has not been prejudiced by Canadian imports. Venezuela's vital interests will continue to be recognized in the administration of the Program. It is our policy to cooperate closely with the Government of Venezuela in seeking solutions to any problems arising from the marketing of Venezuela's oil through meetings of high-level government as well as technical level representatives.

Background:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF ROMULO BETANCOURT
(Pronounced: Beh-tahn-COHR)

Former President Betancourt is a skillful, decisive and confident political leader who recently became Venezuela's first popularly-elected president to complete his term (1959-1964). A classic example of a leftist political revolutionary for many years who turned evolutionary reformer, he is Venezuela's best-known politician and the principal leader of the largest political party, Democratic Action (AD). At first he was regarded with distrust and hostility by many sectors but today has the admiration of the majority of Venezuelans. His present acceptance is due to his moderation and caution in governing, and to his conscientious effort to consider the viewpoint of various elements of Venezuelan society. His breadth of view put him above AD partisan interests and permitted him to visualize broader national interests in governing.

He tended to exercise strong, one-man control over the governmental decision-making process. His moderate, evolutionary approach to economic and social reform and his tendency to reserve policy decisions for himself was partly responsible for two splits in the AD Party since 1960. His survival as President was due largely to an unerring ability to judge all elements of the Venezuelan political situation. He was devoted to the preservation of Venezuelan constitutional democracy and showed himself willing to take the necessary firm action to preserve it from the threats of Left and Right subversives.

He proved to be a staunch friend of the United States and of the West and a vigorous partner in the Alliance for Progress. He is an outspoken foe of communism and Fidel Castro. He also espoused the "Betancourt Doctrine" to oppose recognition of dictatorships and governments brought into power by the forceful overthrow of legitimate governments. During his term he refused to establish relations with seven Latin American governments which came to power through military coups.

He was a communist during his student days, but broke with communism in the early 1930's. His active leadership in a student revolt against dictator Gomez in 1928 led to the first of several long periods of exile. He organized his first political party in 1936 and founded the AD in 1941. In 1945, as a result of a coup engineered by young military officers and AD, Betancourt headed a revolutionary government until 1948. In June 1960 he barely escaped assassination and received severe hand injuries from which he still suffers. The 56 year old Betancourt is married to the former Carmen Valverde, a native Costa Rican. His only child is a daughter, Virginia. He understands some English but speaks very little.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Background: In Venezuela where dictatorship has been the rule, Mr. Betancourt's Administration (1959-64) was a spectacular victory not only for Venezuelan and Latin American democracy but also for the Alliance for Progress. This was so because the survival of Venezuelan democracy — despite conspiracy and insurgency by Communists and, earlier, by the extreme right — resulted primarily from the practice of progressive economic and social policies that were pursued hand in hand with the maintenance of political liberties. Mr. Betancourt has earned a place in history by his brave refusal to surrender either his office or his principles in fighting for democracy in his own nation in a period of critical world ideological conflict.

Mr. Betancourt understands some English but does not speak it. Subject to your approval, Mr. Mann will accompany Mr. Betancourt during his call on you.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

103

Indep. Anniv. Grtgs.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

104

May 28, 1964

To: Benjamin H. Read

From: McGeorge Bundy

For transmittal.

Henry - Deb

104a

**TO THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
CARACAS, VENEZUELA**

I welcome the opportunity to send greetings to my fellow Americans living in Venezuela on the occasion of the 188th anniversary of our country's independence and to express my appreciation of the efforts of the North American Association to foster more cordial relations and greater understanding based on the principles of democracy.

/s/ Lyndon B. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1042

May 24, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

MRS. ROBERTS

The President ought not to do many things like the attached, but Venezuela is a special case. The American community under the Betancourt administration did an unusually good job. If the President could send this brief message, it would give great pleasure to a good group. It is also recommended that a facsimile photograph be sent.

McG. B.

McG. B.

104c
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

I believe that the American community in Venezuela has been forward looking in its attitude toward the Betancourt Administration and has shown great courage under very trying circumstances over the last several years. As a general rule, I give messages such as Ambassador Stewart recommends a low priority, but I consider this case especially meritorious.

I have had the proposed letter prepared for the President's signature with a slight modification in the proposed text. I would suggest a photograph with a facsimile signature of the President.


R. M. Sayre



S/S 7203

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1964

2667
104-d
1. Sawyer
2. [unclear]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Presidential Photograph and Message for
the American Community in Venezuela

The American Ambassador to Venezuela, C. Allan Stewart, wrote to Mr. Reedy on April 29 inviting his attention to a letter of March 5 to Mr. Salinger in which the Ambassador requested an autographed photograph and an Independence Day message from the President to the American community in Venezuela. The text of a proposed message is contained in the March 5 letter.

The Department recommends that the President accede to the Ambassador's request. The courageous manner in which the 15,000 Americans living in Venezuela have faced terrorism in that country during the last two years has contributed significantly to thwarting the Communist offensive. This deserves recognition and the proposed message is considered appropriate.

If the President agrees, the Department will be pleased to pouch the photograph and the signed message to our Embassy for delivery to the North American Association.


Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Copy of March 5, 1964 letter from Ambassador Stewart to Mr. Salinger.
2. Letter of April 29, 1964 from Ambassador Stewart to Mr. Reedy.

104-e

Caracas, Venezuela,
March 5, 1964

Dear Pierre:

You may recall that last year you helped us obtain for use on the Fourth of July an autographed photo of President Kennedy and a message from him to the American community in Venezuela.

Again this year the North American Association would like to print on their July 4 program a photograph and a personal message from the President. They hope the message can be written on White House stationery and bear the authentic signature of President Johnson.

The President of the Association has suggested the text of the message be similar to the following:

I welcome the opportunity to send greetings to my fellow Americans living in Venezuela on the occasion of the 188th anniversary of our country's independence and to express my appreciation of the efforts of the North American Association to foster more cordial relations and greater understanding based on the ~~and~~ ^{ideology} principles of our democracy, and that of Venezuela.]

I would really appreciate your being able to duplicate your feat of last year - by April 15, if possible.

Sincerely,

C. Allan Stewart

Mr. Pierre Salinger,
Press Secretary,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

104-f

Caracas, Venezuela,
April 29, 1964.

Dear Mr. Reedy:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Pierre Salinger dated March 5, 1964 which is self-explanatory. The North American Association is anxious to get this statement, and it has occurred to me that during the change in administration the original letter may have been overlooked.

I will, therefore, be very grateful for anything you can do to further the request therein contained.

Sincerely,

C. Allan Stewart

C. Allan Stewart

Mr. George Reedy,
Press Secretary,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

SECRETARIAT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
GOVT

1964 MAR 14 PM 3 14

1543

The White House - Mr. Dungan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reamy

3/19

105

March 19, 1964

ARA - Mr. Stephansky
cc: ARA - Mr. Mann and SY - Mr. Lynch
The White House - Mr. Dungan S/S
CV - Ambassador Stewart

Visit of President Betancourt to the United States

President Betancourt informed me before I came to Washington that he planned to leave Venezuela on March 26 for the United States. By that time he will have been sworn in as Senator and will have obtained permission from Congress to leave Venezuela. This is a statutory requirement, but Betancourt does not anticipate any difficulties in obtaining the permission.

The ex-President will come directly to Washington and spend a few days here before going to New York. While here he wishes to see President Johnson, Secretary Rusk and Mr. Mann to discuss hemispheric problems. Ambassador Tejera Paris will arrive in Washington a few days before Mr. Betancourt to firm up arrangements for the ex-President's visit. However, it would be well to have arrangements already made for the visits to the President, Secretary and Mr. Mann. (I mentioned this matter to Ralph Dungan yesterday and pointed out that Mr. Betancourt did not wish to have any sort of social event arranged by any U. S. officials. Mr. Dungan said he did not think there would be any difficulty in arranging for an appointment with the President and I suggested that possibly the President might show some deference to Mr. Betancourt by inviting him to his living quarters for coffee or a drink.)

Mr. Betancourt told me that he will probably give a press conference in Washington at the Venezuelan Embassy before he leaves the city. Other than that he wishes no contacts with the press. While in the city he will stay at the Fairfax Hotel and while he is in New York he will be staying at the Hotel Paris, a very modest hostelry on the West Side of New York for which he has a sentimental attachment. Apparently, the President does not wish his presence in New York to be known to the press.

Following a brief visit to New York, where I think he will see some doctors, Mr. Betancourt plans to visit some parts of the United States, travelling incognito. This will be rather difficult for Betancourt whose face is well known on television and in newspaper pictures, but he thinks he can get away with it.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 11, 1954

849

107

Henry

Jim Dungan 2/11

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: U. S. Delegation to Inauguration of Venezuelan President

*2/12
Jim note to
State by
Dungan, State
request.*

President-elect Leonil will be inaugurated sometime between March 2 and March 12. The exact date has not yet been set.

This marks the first time in Venezuelan history that a constitutionally elected President will have turned over power to a duly elected successor. Because of the dramatic character of the occasion, and the particular importance of Venezuela at this time, it is desirable that a high-level delegation be sent.

It is our recommendation that it be composed of Secretary of Labor Wirtz as head of the delegation; Ambassador Stewart; Assistant Secretary Mann; Mr. George Meany, AFL-CIO; Mr. Joseph L. Block, President of Inland Steel Company; Congressman Charles Diggs (D. -Mich.); Congressman Leslie Arends (R. -Ill.); and Mrs. Robert Max Brooks of Austin, Texas.

Dean Rusk

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Review File

108

February 5, 1964

TO: Bromley Smith

I have followed up on the attached cable and was assured by the State Department that arrangements have been worked out with the military to see that a similar situation does not occur in the future.



Ralph A. Dungan

Attachment.

See attached memo to Cy Vance

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
NOT NAT'L SECURITY
INFORMATION, E.O. 12356,
SEC. 1.1(a)

BY OP ON 10/7/91

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

108a

~~SECRET~~

January 31, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

BROMLEY SMITH

SUBJECT: U. S. Violations of Venezuelan Territory

1. Venezuelans have informed the USAIRA that on 27, 28, and 29 January, U. S. aircraft overflew their territory. They were quite disturbed over this and informed him that orders had been given to force down or shoot down any further violators. He was able to get them to hold off this ~~action~~ until he was able to report.
2. CINCLANT is conducting an air surveillance exercise in the Caribbean area at the present time. They report that it is possible that at least one aircraft may have violated the 3 mile limit but no aircraft flew over land mass.
3. The Ambassador reports that Venezuelan sensitivities are understandable in this situation, especially since we have not informed them of the surveillance operation.
4. JCS has directed that the U. S. MILGRP, Venezuela be informed of the exercise so that U. S. authorities in Venezuela can advise the Venezuelan Government of activity in progress beyond Venezuelan territorial limits.

Art

Art McCafferty

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ-001-074-6-19
By abw, NARA, Date 5-22-09

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

108c

February 5, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE CYRUS R. VANCE

I am attaching a cable which describes a situation in Venezuela that appears to me to be inexcusable. I am sure that remedial action has been taken in this case.

However, I would like some assurance that a similar situation does not arise in the future. It seems to me that it would have been a tragic and completely avoidable catastrophe if the Venezuelans had shot or forced down an aircraft in the course of this exercise.

/s/

Ralph A. Dungan
Special Assistant
to the President

Attachment.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By rg/cbm, NARA, Date 3-1-06

~~SECRET~~

✓
Venezuela

December 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Further information on Colonel Chenault in Venezuela:

Our last report, as of 1 P.M. yesterday, indicates that a U. S. correspondent was taken clandestinely by the FIAN (terrorists) to see Chenault. He was well, being kept captive in a private house, required to stay in bed in pajamas, and guarded by three men. Chenault told the U. S. correspondent that he was being well treated.

Venezuelan military and security forces have under surveillance several houses in which Chenault may be held captive, but they are reluctant to move in lest it endanger his life.

Ralph A. Dungan

✓ cc: Mr. Bundy

110

4/21 LBJ/Befancourt
MemCod

2255

111
File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (Attachment)

April 28, 1964

TO: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
The White House

FROM: Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary



Attached for your files is a copy of an approved memorandum of conversation between the President and former President of Venezuela, Mr. Romulo Betancourt dated 4/21/64 regarding Venezuelan Proposals for Meetings of Foreign Ministers on Cuban Aggression and Representative Democracy.

Attachment:

As stated.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (Attachment)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (Attachment)

April 28, 1964

John in Henry 111a

TO: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
The White House

FROM: Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Attached for your files is a copy of an approved memorandum of conversation between the President and former President of Venezuela, Mr. Romulo Betancourt dated 4/21/64 regarding Venezuelan Proposals for Meetings of Foreign Ministers on Cuban Aggression and Representative Democracy.

Attachment:

As stated.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (Attachment)

Approved in White House DEPARTMENT OF STATE
27 April 1964

6051
1116

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 21, 1964

COPIES FROM
S/S TO
S
G
ARA
INR/OD
DATE

SUBJECT: Venezuelan Proposals for Meetings of Foreign Ministers on Cuban Aggression and Representative Democracy

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Mr. Rómulo Betancourt, Former President of Venezuela
Dr. Enrique Tejera-Paris, Ambassador of Venezuela
Sam Moskowitz, Chief of Venezuelan Affairs, ARA
Donald F. Barnes, Interpreter, OPR/LS

COPIES TO: S/S - *cc* Amembassy CARACAS
S/P
G - *cc*
ARA - 3
INR/OD - 2
The White House - *cc*

Mr. Betancourt said he had two matters of substance he wished to bring to the President's attention.

The first matter was the Venezuelan initiative against Cuban aggression brought before the Organization of American States (OAS) under the Rio Treaty. Mr. Betancourt described the proposed Venezuelan resolution and stressed the importance of its being approved by a meeting of foreign ministers as a means of countering Cuban-supported insurgency, even if only by the required minimum of 13 supporting votes. He said it was particularly essential, in order to deter European countries from trading with Cuba, that the Venezuelan resolution be considered and approved by a meeting of foreign ministers.

The second matter was the joint Venezuelan-Costa Rican initiative to call a meeting of foreign ministers of the American states to consider a proposed resolution on strengthening representative democracy in Latin America. Mr. Betancourt expressed concern about the future of representative government in Latin America in view of the many military coups against elected governments during the last two years. He said the experience of the 1950's had demonstrated that Communism flourished and grew strong under the repressive governments of that period; and he feared history may repeat itself. While he believed that the Venezuelan military was not a threat to the elected government of his country, it was vital for the democratic and progressive development of Latin America that the proposed resolution be adopted in order to deter military coups d'etat.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

01 - 2 - -

The President said that it was important that the Venezuelan resolution against Cuba be approved. He also agreed that representative democracy in Latin America should be strengthened. He said he would take these matters up with the Secretary of State and Mr. Mann and suggested that Mr. Betancourt also discuss them with Mr. Mann.

Ambassador Tejera-Paris said that they would be seeing Mr. Mann and would do so.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1964 APR 27 PM 7 18

112

Rusk/Caldera Mem -
Con 1/14/64

494
113
#

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Attachment)

1. Durgan
2. Air
Mr. Henderson

January 23, 1964

TO: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
The White House

FROM: Mr. Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Attached for your information and files are copies of memoranda of conversation regarding:

- 1) Conversation with Dr. Caldera of Venezuela between The Secretary and Dr. Caldera, dated January 14, 1964.
- and 2) Panama between The Secretary and Mr. Allen, dated January 10, 1964.

Attachment:

As stated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Attachment)

(Drafting Office and Officer)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

113a

Approved in S 1/20/64

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 14, 1964

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Caldera of Venezuela

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
 Dr. Rafael Caldera, Leader of Social Christian Party of Venezuela
 Sr. Walter Brandt, Minister Counselor, Venezuelan Embassy
 Mr. Daniel F. Margolies, Director, East Coast Affairs

COPIES TO:
 S/S
 S/P
 G
 ARA/OD

E
 White House
 Amembassy Caracas
 Amembassy Panama

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
 NEJ 93-423
 By , NARA, Date 2-28-94

1. Situation in Canal Zone

Dr. Caldera asked about the developments in Panama.

The Secretary said that the situation in the Canal Zone was complex. The United States had a great responsibility for the Canal in which a number of other countries had a stake. At the same time the sentiments of the Panamanian people were also involved. The Peace Commission on which the Venezuelan Ambassador served as Chairman had done excellent work in contributing to the restoration of law and order and the situation appeared to be greatly improved.

The Secretary said that when all the facts were brought out by the Commission it would appear that the picture originally presented in the press had been greatly distorted. If he had been told beforehand that the US Army in the face of receiving 95 casualties would have responded in the way that it did and would have shown the restraint that it exercised he would have been astonished.

Panamanian rights in the territory had been recognized since the time of the Treaty of 1903. There were also a number of practical problems involving wages, commercial interests, and consular authority on which considerable progress had been made in the past few years. A major problem was the obsolescence of the Canal. Within the next five years a decision would have to be made about a new sea-level canal. It had been intended to resolve many of the outstanding

problems

problems in the context of a decision regarding a new canal. One aspect of the problem involved the American community in the Canal Zone, some of whom had been there for several generations.

Dr. Caldera said that he had lived for a period in Panama as a visiting professor at the University and he had become aware at that time of the deep feelings which the Panamanian people had regarding the Canal. He hoped that the deep underlying problems would be faced squarely, in recognition of the importance which the Panamanian people attach to them. He recalled their deep feeling about the flag and about the operation of business enterprises in the Canal Zone and about wage rates. He hoped an effort would be made to arrive at a long-term solution of the problems.

The Secretary said that some progress had been made on a number of the issues Dr. Caldera had mentioned since his visit to Panama. As far as arriving at a permanent solution of the problems in connection with the Canal, he thought the fact that this was an election year in both countries made this difficult.

Dr. Caldera said he had been greatly impressed by President Johnson's State of the Union message. He thought that this was a great document. He was struck by the fact that President Johnson had referred to the poverty of certain groups within the United States whose income amounted to only \$1 a day. \$365 a year represented a level of income which was much higher than that of many peoples in Latin America. The poverty of the people in Panama in contrast with the more prosperous conditions in the Canal Zone was a serious factor in this situation.

The Secretary said that this was true. He noted that Panama earned some \$60 million indirectly from the presence of the Canal. A difficulty arose from the fact that money derived from the Canal was not equitably distributed throughout the country but tended to benefit only a small part of the population.

2. Venezuelan Elections.

The Secretary said that the people in the United States had been greatly moved by the courage shown by the Venezuelan people during their recent election, and by their refusal to be intimidated by terrorism. Dr. Caldera said that the election had been a great victory for democracy. Throughout the campaign he had been impressed by the way the people had turned out for campaign speeches and by the interest they had shown in the electoral contest. The Venezuelan people had demonstrated that they genuinely believed in a democratic way of life.

Dr. Caldera said that the situation in Caracas was perhaps somewhat different from that of the rest of the country. The support given to Uslar Pietri was somewhat surprising. He thought that it reflected the reaction of the people in Caracas to the terrorist campaign with some of the people claiming the government was lax in its handling of the terrorists, while others were critical of the government for the police actions taken.

3. Attitude of Military.

The Secretary asked whether the military supported a democratic system of

government. It was his understanding that next March would be the first time in Venezuelan history that a constitutionally elected government would be succeeded by another similarly elected government. Dr. Caldera said that this was true certainly for the past century of Venezuelan history. A similar event had occurred early in the 19th century.

Dr. Caldera said that the military were in a somewhat different position from those in other countries where the role of the military had traditionally been to confine themselves to matters of national security. However, he felt that most of the officers at this time were disposed to support a constitutional government.

4. Terrorism

The Secretary asked how many terrorists there were in Venezuela. Dr. Caldera said that this was hard to estimate. In the previous election the Communists had received some 100,000 votes, but it was clear that many of those who voted the Communist ticket were not Communists. He estimated the number of Communists at present to be about 10,000. He thought that not all of these were terrorists and the number of terrorists might perhaps be several thousands. It was very difficult to say who they were since they included persons high up in Venezuelan society, such as a daughter of the physician of President Betancourt and the son of one of the State Governors.

Dr. Brandt intervened to say there were also a number of fellow travelers who sympathized with the terrorists.

5. Prospects for the New Government.

The Secretary asked what the prospects were for the new administration under President Leoni. Dr. Caldera said his party had supported the Betancourt administration throughout its term. It was too early to state how their association with Leoni would work out. This would depend upon other things and the outcome of the COPEI convention which opens on January 24.

Dr. Caldera referred to President Kennedy's visit in 1961 which had given a tremendous uplift to the spirits of the Venezuelan people and had had an exhilarating effect in bolstering confidence. He said that shortly thereafter the AD party had split which had been a severe blow to the Betancourt government. At that time the COPEI party had stood firmly by Betancourt in his period of great need.

There was a certain embarrassment at the moment between the AD and the COPEI parties arising out of the fact that the AD had suffered a decline in the popular support which it had received in the election whereas the COPEI had increased its share of the vote.

6. Christian Democratic Parties

The Secretary asked whether there was an exchange of views among the Christian

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-4-

Democratic parties of Latin America. Dr. Caldera said that the parties were autonomous but they were in relatively close communication with each other and they held conferences from time to time. He said there had been a recent conference in Salzburg which he had not attended because of the Venezuelan election campaign. A meeting of the Latin American parties was scheduled to be held in May in Caracas.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~