

<<<<>>

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ4080

E40A

PAGE 01 CARACA 01960 111831Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W

-----C9ECFB 111831Z /45

R 092024Z JUL 02
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6660
 INFO NSC WASHDC
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 001960

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/08/12
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: JULY 9, 2002

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE FREDERICK B. COOK FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: EARLY THIS MORNING, A GRENADE EXPLODED IN THE
PARKING LOT OF GLOBOVISION, DAMAGING SEVERAL CARS BUT HURTING NO
ONE. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

B1

PAGE 02 CARACA 01960 111831Z

[REDACTED] OPPOSITION GROUPS REJECTED
 EX-PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING WITH CHAVEZ BECAUSE
 IT WOULD LACK AN ESTABLISHED AGENDA AND FORMAT. MIQUILENA WILL
 MARCH ON JULY 11; THE PPT SAID THE MARCHERS INTEND TO CAPTURE
 MIRAFLORES PALACE. END SUMMARY

 GRENADE FRAGMENTS EXPLODE AT GLOBOVISION

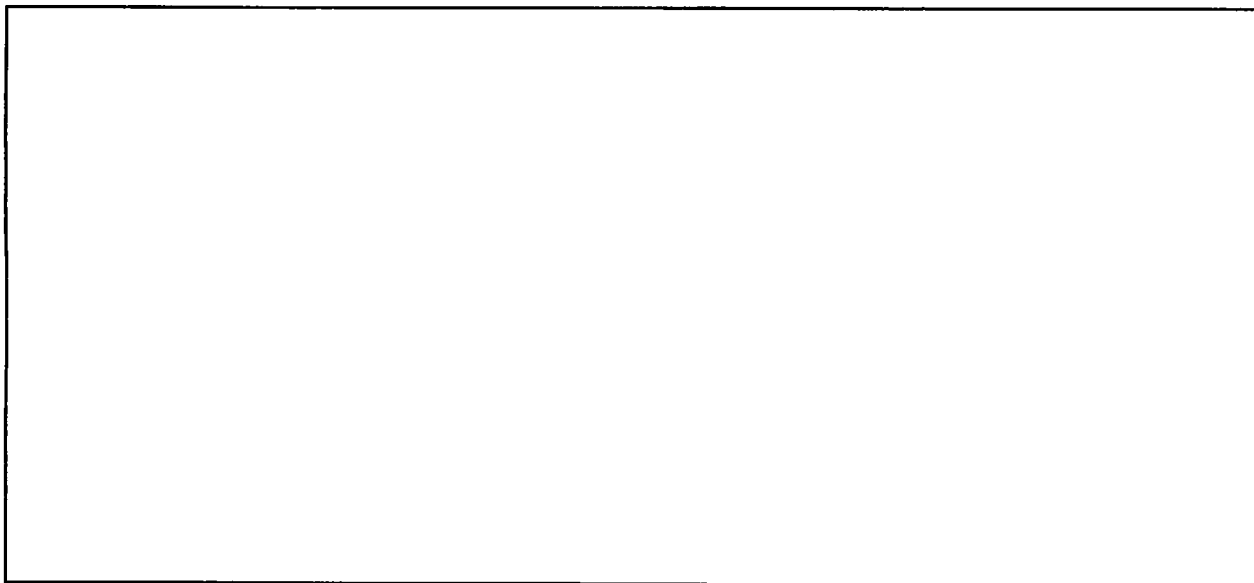
2. (U) EARLY THIS MORNING, A GRENADE EXPLODED IN THE PARKING LOT
OF GLOBOVISION, DAMAGING SEVERAL CARS BUT LEAVING NO ONE HURT,

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS AND EMBASSY PAS. GLOBOVISION DIRECTOR GENERAL ALBERTO FEDERICO RAVELL CALLED THE ATTACK AN ACT AGAINST FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. RAVELL ALSO STATED THAT GLOBOVISION WOULD NOT ALTER ITS NEWS COVERAGE AND WILL NOT ALLOW THIS INCIDENT TO IMPEDE ITS REGULAR EDITORIAL FUNCTIONS.

DEFENSE MINISTER PRIETO AS SEEN BY POLITICAL ANALYSTS



4. (C) IN HER WEEKLY REPORT, ISABEL BACALAO POINTED OUT THAT PRIETO HAD A TEMPESTUOUS TENURE AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION (INCE) -- AN ORGANIZATION GEARED TO PROMOTE TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES -- WHICH BOTH SHE AND [REDACTED] CLAIMED WAS DUE TO HIS "CONFLICTIVE" OR "AUTHORITARIAN" NATURE. BOTH ANALYSTS SAW THE LOW-KEY MANNER IN WHICH CHAVEZ APPOINTED PRIETO AS A SIGN THAT PRIETO WILL HAVE A REDUCED ROLE AS MINISTER. CENTRAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CARLOS RAUL HERNANDEZ, IN HIS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER COLUMN, OPINED THAT THE "REAL" POWER BEHIND PRIETO'S THRONE AT DEFENSE WILL BE GENERAL RAUL BADUEL.

CARTER VISIT UPDATE

5. EX-PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSITION TO HAVE GROUPS OF THE OPPOSITION TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ TODAY WAS UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED BY THE OPPOSITION GROUPS. CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) AND FEDECAMARAS STATED THAT THEIR REFUSAL IS DUE TO THE LACK OF "TRANSPARENT DIALOGUE." [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] TOLD A/POLCOUNS ON JULY 9 THAT SOME OF THE PARTIES--PROYECTO, PRIMERO JUSTICIA, AND UNION -- SUPPORTED THE MEETING IDEA, BUT ONLY OUT OF RESPECT FOR CARTER. THEY ALL BELIEVED, [REDACTED] STATED, THAT WITHOUT A FIXED AGENDA OR FORMAT, CONFIDENTIAL

B1

PAGE 04 CARACA 01960 111831Z THE MEETING WOULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING. (AD, COPEI, AND MAS REJECTED THE MEETING WITHOUT ANY QUALIFIERS.) SIX NGOS APPARENTLY DID SUPPORT THE IDEA OF MEETING WITH CHAVEZ.

----- MIQUILENA WILL JOIN PROPOSED JULY 11 MARCH -----

6. (U) AT A MEETING WITH POLITICIANS, BUSINESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY, LUIS MIQUILENA, FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE, ANNOUNCED HIS PARTICIPATION JULY 11 TO PROTEST HIS DISCONTENT WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. MEANWHILE, POLITICAL SECRETARY OF PATRIA PARA TODOS MARIO ISEA CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL USE LADDERS ON JULY 11 TO TAKE OVER MIRAFLORES. ISEA ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE JULY 11 MARCH COULD GENERATE THE KIND OF VIOLENCE THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN APRIL 11-14.

COOK

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>