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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W	
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002172

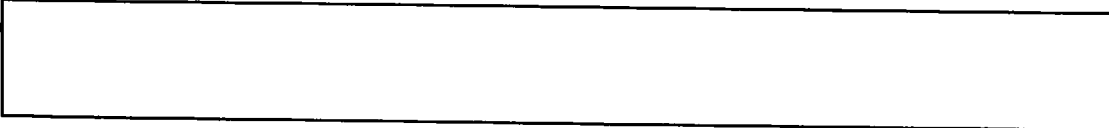
DEPT: ALSO FOR INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION

CLASSIFIED BY: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARDO A. ARIAS FOR REASON 1.5 (B)

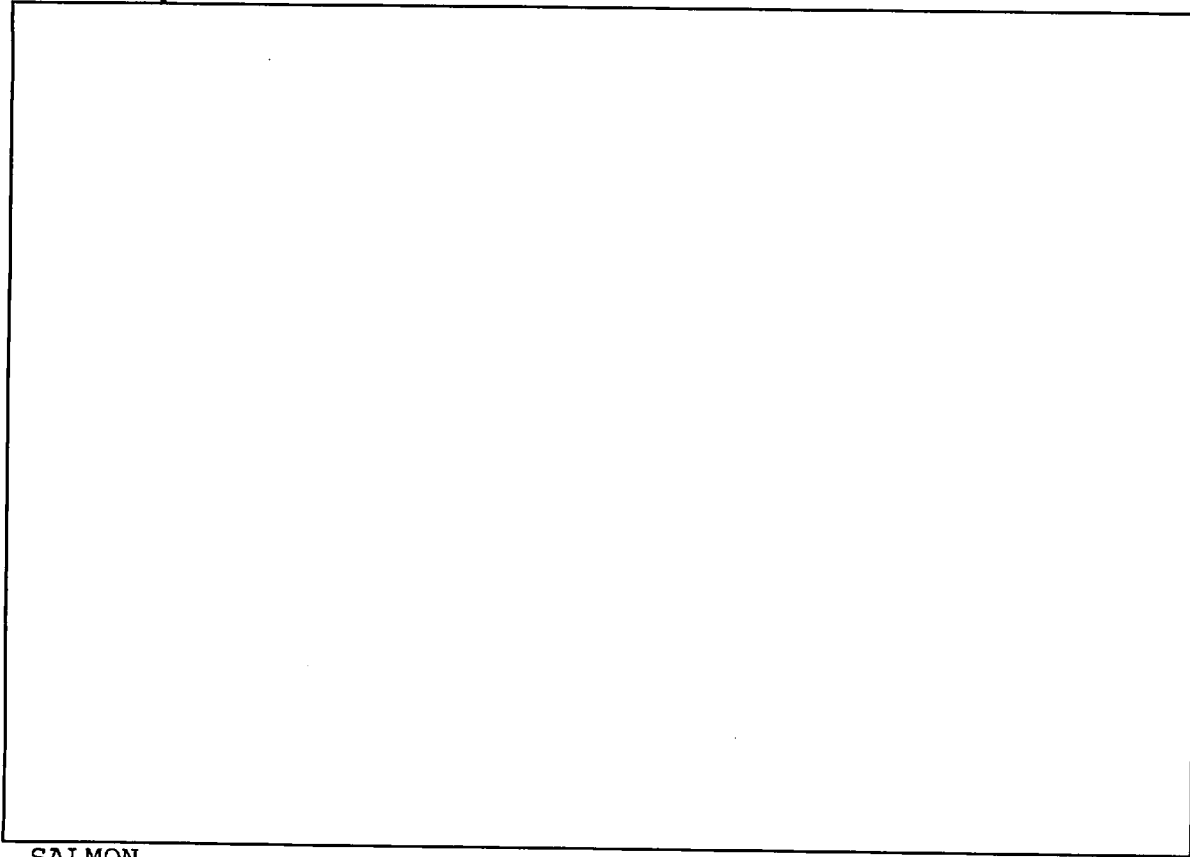
1. (SBU) PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ SWORE IN JESSE CHACON JULY 4 AS THE NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION. CHACON, A PARTICIPANT IN THE 1992 COUP AND A CLOSE ALLY OF CHAVEZ, REPLACES NORA URIBE. URIBE HAD BEEN IN THE POST SINCE AUGUST 2002 WHEN THE MINISTRY WAS ESTABLISHED. SHE RESIGNED AFTER A TECHNICAL SNAFU AT VENEZUELAN TELEVISION (VTV) STOPPED NATIONAL COVERAGE OF A MILITARY PARADE HONORING THE BATTLE OF CARABOBO ON JUNE 24.

2. (U) PRESIDENT CHAVEZ PRAISED URIBE FOR HAVING LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A MORE PROACTIVE ROLE IN TOUTING ITS ACHIEVEMENTS. HE ENJOINED CHACON TO BUILD ON HER WORK TO COUNTER THE ALLEGEDLY DISTORTED IMAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE OLIGARCHS WHO CONTROL THE MEDIA--"OWNERS AND CONCESSIONARIES"--GIVE THE PUBLIC. IN COMMENTS THAT LASTED CLOSE TO ONE HOUR, CHAVEZ ALSO GAVE CHACON NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF HOW THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SHOULD FOCUS ON THE LATTER, SO VENEZUELAN'S COULD KNOW ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF THE "REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA."



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