



(U) Venezuela (VEN): The Bad Things Chavez Does...



15 August 2003

(C) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: President Chavez and his inner circle maintain a plethora of activities that not only

(b)(1) His near-term focus is to proactively counter another coup attempt and overcome the internal challenge to his rule, at any cost. COMMENT: Chavez reportedly remains at the pinnacle of decision-making hierarchy and (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(U) DISCUSSION:

(S//NF) (b)(1)

(S//NF) (b)(1) Chavez at best permits (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1) the FARC and ELN safe haven

(S//NF) (b)(1)

(b)(1) Ramon Rodriguez Chacin is a central figure in the administration's relationship with (b)(1)

(b)(1) the FARC

(S) (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(S//NF) (b)(1)

(b)(1)

<sup>1</sup> Iir 6 902 0372 03 8/14/03

<sup>2</sup> 241421ZAUG01 Sensitive Reporting (S//NF)

<sup>3</sup> 011600Zaug03 DIA (S//NF)

<sup>4</sup> 302042ZAPR01 Sensitive Reporting (S//NF)

<sup>5</sup> 241541ZJUL03 DIA (S//NF)

<sup>6</sup> 302100ZMAY03 Sensitive Reporting (S//NF)

- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1)

- ~~(S//NF)~~ The Chavez regime appears to allow free movement of Islamic extremists ~~(b)(1)~~

- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1)
- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1)

- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) ~~(b)(1)~~
- ~~(S//NF)~~ Long-time associate and National Deputy Tarek William Saab ~~(b)(1)~~

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- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1)

- 7 221749ZMAY03 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~
- 8 051737ZAPR01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 9 051857ZFEB01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 10 061710Zmay03 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~, CDR 902DMIGP 271450ZFEB03 ~~(S//NF)~~; DIA 101802ZJUN03 ~~(S//NF)~~
- 11 072035ZMAR00 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~; Sensitive Reporting 171551ZAPR03
- 12 190921Zjun03 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 13 262148ZMAR01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 14 161430Zsep02 HMSNG ~~(S//NF)~~
- 15 26NOV02 SCJ2 Intel Assessment
- 16 26NOV02 SCJ2 Intel Assessment
- 17 271448ZFEB03, (U) IIR 2 103 0205 03, CDR902DMIGP, para. 4 ~~(S//NF)~~; 231332ZSEP02, (U) 6 902 0394 02, USDAO CARACAS, para. 2.F. ~~(S)~~
- 18 TRRS-03-02-0418, FBI, ~~(LES)~~
- 19 152246Zoct02, Sensitive Reporting, para. 2, 3 ~~(S//NF)~~
- 20 052007ZAUG03, Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 21 052007ZAUG03, Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~
- 22 241421Zaug01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~

- o ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]

~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez Pushing His Bolivarian Agenda

- ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez is exporting his Bolivarian movement ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez has influence in Bolivia ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez has also approached ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted] leaders with a proposal to form an ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted] according to ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez has received international support for his political and economic agenda from US ideological adversaries such as Cuba, the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), Iran, and Libya
- ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- (U) Open sources report a European Bolivarian Committee was established in London to respond to promote the revolution in Europe (NFI) <sup>31</sup>

- ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted] the Bolivarian Liberation Front (FBL) ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ FBL is the most militant form of ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted] Bolivarian "social groups" ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez utilizes the Bolivarian Circles (CB) to maintain the revolution <sup>34</sup>
- ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]
- o ~~(S//NF)~~ ~~(b)(1)~~ [redacted]

<sup>23</sup> 241421Zaug01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>24</sup> 301856ZJUL01 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>25</sup> 25MAR03 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>26</sup> 25MAR03 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>27</sup> 142020AUG03 Sensitive Reporting, para 1. ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>28</sup> 25MAR03 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>29</sup> 25MAR03 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>30</sup> 221545ZAUG02, Sensitive Reporting, para. 11 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>31</sup> 25MAR03 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>32</sup> 15Jul03SCJ2 Intel Assessment ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>33</sup> 15Jul03SCJ2 Intel Assessment ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>34</sup> 29APR02 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>35</sup> 28AUG02 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>36</sup> 29APR02 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~

- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- (b)(1) [redacted]

**(U) Castro and Chavez**

- ~~(S//NF)~~ Chavez and Castro have a special relationship but (b)(1) [redacted] the full extent of Cuba's advisory role remains unclear<sup>39</sup>
  - ~~(S//NF)~~ Castro appears to be an ideological mentor to Chavez; both maintain a strong anti-US stance and wish to undermine US influence in Latin America<sup>40</sup>
- ~~(S)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]

**(U) Relations with Other Countries of Concern**

- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S)~~ Chavez has declared China's communist regime the "big sister" to his Bolivarian revolution<sup>39</sup>
- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ (b)(1) [redacted]

<sup>37</sup> 29APR02 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>38</sup> 29APR02 DIA ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>39</sup> 7MAR03 LANSAR ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>40</sup> 19DEC00 MID-239-00 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>41</sup> 151840ZJUL03 USDAO ~~(S)~~  
<sup>42</sup> 31JUL03 SCJ2 Red Cell Report 11 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>43</sup> 7MAR03 Lansar ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>44</sup> 231954ZJUN03 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>45</sup> 231954ZJUN03 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>46</sup> 151603ZAPR03 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>47</sup> 151603ZAPR03 Sensitive Reporting ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>48</sup> 5APR02 MID-065-02 ; 15NOV01 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>49</sup> 15NOV01 SCJ2 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>50</sup> 111743ZAPR01 USDAO (S); 5APR02MID-065-02 ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>51</sup> 271653ZFEB02 USDAO ~~(S//NF)~~  
<sup>52</sup> IIR6902012602 17 Jan 02 ~~(S)~~  
<sup>53</sup> IIR6902012602 17 Jan 02 ~~(S)~~

- (S/NF) (b)(1) [redacted]  
(b)(1) [redacted]
- (S/NF) (b)(1) [redacted]  
(b)(1) [redacted]
- (S/NF) Chavez maintains strong ties with Libya, (b)(1) [redacted]

**(U) ASSESSMENT:**

- (S) Chavez is focused on doing everything in his power to keep his presidency at whatever cost
  - (S) (b)(1) [redacted]
  - (S) (b)(1) [redacted]
- By (b)(6) [redacted]  
(b)(6) [redacted]

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Declassify on: X1, X5

<sup>54</sup> IIR6902035103 21 Jul 03 (S)

<sup>55</sup> IIR6902035103 21 Jul 03 (S)

<sup>56</sup> 242310Aug02 Caracas Globovision and sensitive reporting (S/NF)