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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY VENEZUELA

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SUBJECT

REVOLT OF HARD-LINE DISSIDENTS IN THE FALN AGAINST ESTABLISHED LEADERSHIP, AND PLANS OF THE REBELS TO RESUME TERRORISM IN CARACAS IN JANUARY 1966

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

REF

IN 23515

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

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1. (SUMMARY: HARDLINE ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FALN) ARE IN REVOLT AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PCV) AND HAVE FORMED THEIR OWN CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SUPPORT OF ALL GUERRILLA COMMANDS, EXCEPT THAT OF THE SIMON BOLIVAR FRONT IN THE STATE OF LARA, HAS BEEN PROMISED. THE REBEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE FALN AND HAS ANNOUNCED THE REORGANIZATION OF THE

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FALN MILITARY DISTRICTS. FALN BRIGADES IN CARACAS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RENEW TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN EARLY 1966. THE REBELS HAVE NOTIFIED CUBA, RED CHINA AND THE USSR OF THE FORMATION OF A "NEW PARTY-FALN LEADERSHIP". AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HARDLINE FACTION OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) TO FORM A UNITED COMMAND OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT.)

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REBEL GROUP, ESPECIALLY IN ANNOUNCING THE REVOLT TO CUBA, THE USSR AND COMMUNIST CHINA, MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR HELP FROM ONE OR MORE OF THOSE FOREIGN POWERS. REPORT GIVES EVIDENCE THAT THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IS UNDERGOING A SPLIT OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS WHICH MAY RESULT IN THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE COMMUNIST PARTY FULLY COMMITTED TO A STRATEGY OF ARMED VIOLENCE. FOR THE PRESENT, THE REBEL GROUP IS NOT LIKELY TO MUSTER SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE PCV ORGANIZATION.)

3. ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FALN) GUERRILLA LEADERS HEADED BY DOUGLAS BRAVO, JOSE RAFAEL NUNEZ TENORIO, PASQUIER SUAREZ AND (FNU) ZANONI, HAVE ELECTED A "CENTRAL COMMITTEE." THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE OF THEIR BELIEF THAT THE ESTABLISHED LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PCV) WAS AGAINST A CONTINUATION

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OF THE ARMED REVOLUTION IN VENEZUELA AND WAS NOT PROVIDING EQUITABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLA GROUPS.

4. ALFREDO MANEIRO, COMMANDER OF THE MANUEL PONTE RODRIGUEZ FALN GUERRILLA FRONT IN EASTERN VENEZUELA, AND ANOTHER UNNAMED HIGH GUERRILLA LEADER WALKED OUT OF THE REBEL CONCLAVE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE REBEL ACTIONS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE MANUEL PONTE RODRIGUEZ FRONT HAS SUFFERED SEVERE LOSSES DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS AND APPEARS TO BE INOPERATIVE AT THIS TIME.)

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5. THE REBEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CLAIMING TO BE THE "NEW PARTY-FALN LEADERSHIP" PROCEEDED TO SET UP NEW MILITARY DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA. A NEW NATIONAL FALN COMMAND, INCLUDING BRAVO AND PEDRO VEGAS CASTEJON, WAS NOMINATED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: VEGAS WAS A VENEZUELAN ARMY MAJOR INVOLVED IN THE LEFTIST-INSPIRED UPRISING AT CARUPANO NAVAL BASE IN 1962. HE WAS IMPRISONED AND ESCAPED IN SEPTEMBER 1963 AND LATER JOINED THE FALN. HE HAS SINCE BEEN REPORTEDLY NAMED TO THE PCV MILITARY COMMISSION WHICH HAS CHARGE OF DIRECTIONING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FALN.)

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6. THE NEW FALN COMMAND SENT A STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITION TO ALL GUERRILLA FRONTS FOR THEIR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL. ALL GROUPS APPROVED THE ACTIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SIMON BOLIVAR GUERRILLA FRONT IN LARA. THE FALN COMMAND IN LARA REPLIED THAT THE POINTS MADE BY THE REBEL GROUP HAD MERITS FOR DISCUSSION BUT CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN THE FRACTIONAL MOVEMENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SIMON BOLIVAR GUERRILLA FRONT IS

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CONSIDERED BY COMMUNIST LEADERS TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND BEST ORGANIZED GUERRILLA FORCE IN VENEZUELA.)

7. THE REBEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FALN COMMAND HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

A. NEW GUERRILLA COMMANDS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA.

B. A NEW FALN COMMAND AND NEW BRIGADE COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN NAMED FOR THE CITY OF CARACAS. DETACHMENT AND TACTICAL COMBAT UNIT (UTC) COMMANDERS IN CARACAS ARE BEING ORDERED TO ACCEPT THE NEW LEADERSHIP OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

C. THE DESIGNATION OF THE NEW GUERRILLA COMMANDS AND DISTRICTS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED TO ALL GUERRILLA ZONES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE STATE OF LARA.

D. DELEGATES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE REBEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE HAVANA CONFERENCE.

E. A CLANDESTINE PCV RADIO TRANSMITTER WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE REBELS AND MESSAGES WERE SENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, COMMUNIST CHINA, CUBA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES, ANNOUNCING THE "NEW PCV-FALN LEADERSHIP."

F. THE NEW LEADERSHIP WAS ALSO REPORTED TO THE LOCAL TASS CORRESPONDENT FOR PUBLICATION.

G. CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REBELS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HARD-LINE FACTION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) WITH A VIEW TOWARD FORMING A UNITED COMMAND UNDER THE

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NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FLN). THE MIR REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL.

H. THE REBELS ALSO ARE CONTACTING OTHER PERSONALITIES WHO ARE COLLABORATING WITH URBAN UNITS OF THE FALN IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE THEM INTO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FLN GROUPS.

8. ALEXIS NATALE, COMMANDER OF THE FALN BRIGADE NO. 3 IN CARACAS, REFUSED TO JOIN THE REBELS AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED LEADERSHIP. VEGAS CASTEJON, OF THE REBEL GROUP, SUBSEQUENTLY RELIEVED HIM OF HIS POSITION AND NAMED A NEW COMMAND OF THAT BRIGADE.

9. THE REBELS FEEL THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH BRIGADE NO. 1 IN CARACAS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF EMBER CORDIDO.

10. THE REBELS NAMED A NEW COMMANDER OF FALN BRIGADE NO. 2 IN CARACAS.

11. URBAN BRIGADES IN CARACAS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN EARLY JANUARY 1966. THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT OPERATIONS ALREADY PLANNED BY THE DISTRICT AND BRIGADE COMMANDS.

12. A SUM OF 20,000 BOLIVARS (\$4,500) RECENTLY RECEIVED IN A "COMMERCIAL" OPERATION AND WITHHELD BY THE REBELS FROM THE PCV LEADERSHIP, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE CARACAS BRIGADES IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THEIR IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

13. THE REBEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLANS TO INFORM THE PRESS OF ITS ACTIONS.

14.

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THE POLITBURO OF THE PCV APPARENTLY HAS

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TAKEN LITTLE IF ANY EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THE REBELS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY. A GOOD MANY PCV AND FALN ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE HEARD ABOUT THESE EVENTS HAVE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO THE MANNER IN WHICH DOUGLAS BRAVO AND HIS GROUP HAVE CARRIED OUT THE REVOLT.

15. [REDACTED] DISSEM STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINCSO CINCLANT.

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