

2. Report prepared on 12 December 1961

a.



1.5(b)(c)
3.4(b)(1)(5)(9)

b.



1.5(b)(c)
3.4(b)(1)(5)(9)

c. Carlos Augusto LEON Arocha, a member of the Central Committee of the PCV, said [redacted] that the PCV would start using violence in its struggle against the Venezuelan Government

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

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and that the PCV policy is now to take control of the government, rather than simply attempting to change the policies of the government. He said there are European technicians in Venezuela to help the PCV train groups in the use and preparation of sabotage materials. He also said that a division in the Democratic Action Party (AD) and differences in opinion between the AD and COPEI (Christian Socialist Party) would aid the PCV cause. [REDACTED]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] a heated argument between President Betancourt and Rafael CALDERA, Head of COPEI was overheard. Betancourt told CALDERA that he did not need COPEI in the coalition but that COPEI needed the coalition. The conversation ended with CALDERA apparently agreeing to go along with Betancourt's decisions.)

d. The PCV has plans to cause disturbances and to carry out acts of sabotage in Eastern Venezuela, specifically in the area around Cabimas and at the Las Morochas power plant. They plan to bring student and adult agitators to Cabimas to help start the disturbances. The Communists are receiving arms from Cucta, Colombia and also have explosives stored in Eastern Venezuela. Two Italians, who are experts in explosives, are working for the PCV in Ciudad Ojeda.

e. Two policemen were killed in Urachiche in the State of Yaracuy on 10 December when unidentified persons attacked the municipal offices and took all the police rifles stored there. Fires occurred in at least four gasoline stations during the weekend of 9-10 December. Three of these fires were started by deliberate acts of sabotage.

f. Caracas high schools are to be closed by 13 December. An MIR student said the opposition parties believe it will be more difficult to take action if the schools are closed.

g. A COPEI leader gave the following summary of the position of the opposition parties with regard to the visit: The PCV plans serious disturbances before 16 December in an effort to force cancellation of the trip and plan to use violence in the event the visit is carried out as planned. The MIR prefers to conserve its forces for an attempt to overthrow the Venezuelan Government. The official policy of the URD is to oppose any hostile activities but some leaders of the URD can be expected to take part in hostile activities.

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h. Press coverage of the visit continues to be mostly favorable. A spokesman for the Democratic Republican Union (URD) said the URD opposes violence against President Kennedy. The pastoral letter issued by Cardinal Quintero was read at all masses on 10 December and newspapers have quoted his appeal to all Catholics to welcome President Kennedy. Individual parish priests have spontaneously demanded that their parishioners go out on the street to support the visit of President Kennedy. Anti-Kennedy wall slogans are being painted out in many areas although a new slogan, "Kennedy, no - Jacky, si", is appearing. New leaflets protesting the visit are appearing; some of these call for the same reception given to Nixon..

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3. Report prepared on 13 December 1961

a. A special plane carrying Castro agents is reported to be leaving Cuba for Aruba between 12 and 16 December. These agents are to travel on to Venezuela to carry out sabotage during President Kennedy's visit and, if possible, will make an attempt on the President's life. It has also been reported that a pro-Castro group known as the Movimiento Venezolano is preparing demonstrations against President Kennedy in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This group includes many pro-Castro Dominican exiles. (This may be the Movimiento Revolucionario Venezolano, a group of Venezuelans who were reported in September 1961 to be receiving training in Cuba for subversive activities in Venezuela.) Giovanni Toti, an Italian Communist journalist who is responsible for liaison between South American Communist parties and the Italian Communist Party, left Caracas on 10 December for San Juan. Toti has previously travelled in South America in connection with the formation of terrorist groups and directing sabotage activities. (There may be some connection between Toti's visit to Venezuela and the report that two Italians, who are experts in explosives, were working with the PCV in Ciudad Ojeda.)

[REDACTED] 1.5(b)(c)
3.4(b)(1)(5)(9)

b. Joaquín Araujo Ortega, Secretary-General of the Zulia Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) said the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has decided to postpone its plans for a revolt against the Government of Venezuela, at least until January 1962.

c. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 1.5(b)(c)
3.4(b)(1)(5)(9)

d. Maracaibo police arrested 10 members of the PCV on 12 December as they were distributing anti-Kennedy leaflets.

e. Another policeman was shot and killed on 11 December

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while guarding a car carrying money to the bank. [REDACTED]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

f. Order brigades of the Democratic Action Party (AD) are to be stationed along the route to be travelled by President Kennedy and have been issued 4,000 revolvers. [REDACTED]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] The AD and COPEI are also organizing labor groups, many of which are well disciplined and have been given instructions to disrupt Communist disturbances created by students.

g. On the night of 11 December an anti-Kennedy demonstration was held in a public housing section of Caracas. One young by-stander was killed and one wounded. A small group of Central University students distributed anti-Kennedy leaflets at the Plaza Venezuela on the night of 11 December. Most schools in Caracas had been closed as of 12 December. Although the Central University had not been closed officially, classes ceased on 12 December.

h. In conjunction with the pastoral letter of Cardinal Quintero, Father Peyton organized a half-hour program on all radio stations during which an estimated 2,500,000 said their rosaries and prayed for the success of President Kennedy's trip. This is the first time church authorities in Venezuela have urged its members to receive a foreign visitor with demonstrations of affection.

i. According to the press, extremist leaders are to be advised officially that disturbances during the visit of President Kennedy will cause their arrest. Drastic measures are to be taken against those caught defacing walls. La Hora quoted the URD faction of the Caracas Municipal Council as saying that the Council will not declare President Kennedy as a guest of honor of the city of Caracas. However, URD leaders are quoted as saying that President Kennedy should be welcomed favorably and labor leaders have repeated President Betancourt's call for workers to be in the streets to welcome President Kennedy. One editorial pointed out that the PCV is an absolute minority in Venezuela and that the people of Caracas should not allow

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themselves to be represented by the PCV. The Habana press played up the theme that President Kennedy will be surrounded by thousands of security agents and that by contrast, Fidel Castro walked the streets of Venezuela unguarded and surrounded by thousands of friendly Venezuelans.

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