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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

● PRIORITY

COUNTRY BOLIVIA

[Redacted] >25Yrs

[Redacted]

DISTR. 20 MAY 1965

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (C)

SUBJECT

THREAT OF RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA IF PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS ORDERS THE RELEASE OF NUFLO CHAVEZ ORTIZ.

[Redacted]

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REF

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EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (C)

1. DURING THE MORNING OF 20 MAY PRESIDENT RENE BARRIENTOS ORTUNO ORDERED THE RELEASE OF NUFLO CHAVEZ ORTIZ, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. CHAVEZ HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON 19 MAY BECAUSE THE POLICE HAD REPORTED THAT HE WAS IN THE FRONT LINE OF THE ACTIVE DEMONSTRATION OF 17 MAY. BARRIENTOS HAD ORDERED HIS ARREST ON 19 MAY.

2. OSCAR QUIROGA TERAN MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, TOLD BARRIENTOS THAT HE WOULD RESIGN FROM THE CABINET IF CHAVEZ ORTIZ WAS RELEASED. AT A LATER CABINET MEETING THE FOLLOWING

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CABINET MEMBERS AGREED TO RESIGN WITH QUIROGA IF CHAVEZ ORTIZ WAS RELEASED: JAIME BERDECIO, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, HUGO BANZER SUAREZ, MINISTER OF EDUCATION; CARLOS ALCOREZA MELGAREJO, MINISTER OF TREASURY; EDUARDO MENDEZ PEREIRA, MINISTER OF MINES; MARCELO GALINDO DE UGARTE, SECRETARY OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS FERNANDO DIEZ DE MEDINA, AN ADVISOR IN THE PALACE. AS OF 1730 HOURS LOCAL TIME CHAVEZ IS STILL IN CUSTODY AND THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL BE RELEASED HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.

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3. ~~SECRET~~ COMMENT: WHEN SILES WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HE WAS IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UPON ORDERS OF BARRIENTOS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SILES REQUESTED BARRIENTOS TO RELEASE CHAVEZ IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS CONTROL OVER THE MNR. IT HAS BEEN RUMORED IN GOVT CIRCLES THAT SILES EXERTS A STRONG INFLUENCE ON BARRIENTOS. ALSO BARRIENTOS SYMPATHIES LIE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MNR. THE CABINET MEMBERS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR FIRM ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GALINDO WHO IS EASILY MANIPULATED. HIS REASON FOR DISSENTING TO BARRIENTOS DECISION IS UNKNOWN SINCE HE IS HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW.)

4. ~~SECRET~~ DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCSO.

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