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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[Redacted] (b)(3)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505  
WARNING NOTICE

SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

**"EXCLUSIVE FOR" DOCUMENT**

14 FEB 1977

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Ambassador Douglas L. Heck  
Director of the Office for  
Combatting Terrorism (M/CT)

**FROM:** William W. Wells  
Deputy Director for Operations

**SUBJECT:** 1. Allegation that Mr. William F. Nichous is Alive and May Soon Be Released

2. [Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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1. [Redacted]

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2. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] the group of kidnapers who abducted Nichous is beginning to break up and some of its members, [Redacted] are severing their connections with the group. [Redacted]

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(b)(1)

Nichous is still alive and those holding him plan to release him in the near future. (b)(3)

3. [Redacted] Nichous will be released because the kidnapers are no longer receiving any favorable publicity; rather, what little publicity they do receive is unfavorable, and they are considered by the general public to be sadistic because of the suffering inflicted on the victim's wife and family. In addition, the kidnapers have received no money and, in view of the hard-line position of the Venezuelan Government, see little chance

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Classified by Signer. XGDS-2.

[Redacted]

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of acquiring any ransom. They view continuing to hold Nichous as increasingly dangerous to their own safety and also they continue to be saddled with the expenses of holding Nichous captive.

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6.

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claims that Nichous is alive and spends most of his time playing cards with his captors at a location somewhere in the Caracas metropolitan area.

[Redacted]

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7.

[Redacted] Comment: These are believed to be the first reports in many months which allege that Mr. Nichous is alive. [Redacted]

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[redacted] It should be kept in mind that (b)(1)  
as the 27 February 1977 anniversary date of the kidnapping (b)(3)  
approaches many reports may surface which are of a dubious  
and conflicting nature.)

8. [redacted] (b)(1)  
[redacted] (b)(3)

Signed  
Raymond A. Warren  
William W. Wells

[redacted] (b)(3)

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