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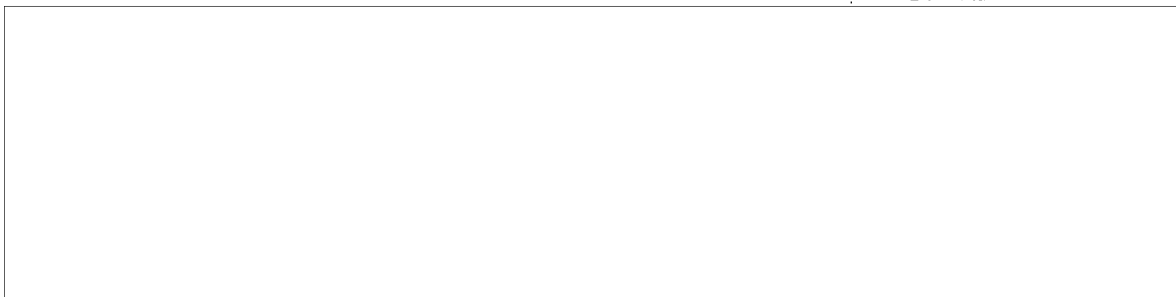
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INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6576  
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EZ2:  
BOGOTA FOR LEGAL ATTACHE  
E.O. 12356: DECL: 04/15/90  
TAGS: PINS, VE  
SUBJ: VENEZUELA SECURITY FORCES ARREST BANDERA ROJA  
- LEADER, 15 OTHERS FOR SUBVERSION IN SEPARATE RAIDS  
1. (UN) VENEZUELAN MEDIA APRIL 15 REPORTED THE CAPTURE  
OF ASDRUBAL CORDERO WHO ALLEGEDLY IS THE NATIONAL LEADER  
OF THE BANDERA ROJA TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. HE WAS  
APPREHENDED BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES SOMEWHERE IN  
WESTERN VENEZUELA, ALONG WITH A CACHE OF WEAPONS AND  
DOCUMENTS INDICATING PLANS FOR JOINT VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN  
GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN BORDER AREA. CORDERO REPORTEDLY  
WAS TO BE MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO SAN CARLOS MAXIMUM SECURITY  
PRISON IN CARACAS.  
2. (UN) IN ANOTHER OPERATION ANNOUNCED AT A DISIP PRESS  
CONFERENCE APRIL 14, 15 PRESUMED MEMBERS OF BANDERA ROJA  
AND TWO OTHER SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, GRUPO DE COMMANDOS  
REVOLUCIONARIOS AND MOVIMIENTO DE TRABAJADORES

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REVOLUCIONARIOS, WERE ARRESTED (NO DATE GIVEN), AND A CACHE OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES WERE ALSO SEIZED AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN THE "23RD OF JANUARY" NEIGHBORHOOD IN CARACAS (CENTER OF SEVERAL VIOLENT DISTURBANCES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS). DISIP SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ARRESTED HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED THROUGH PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE RECENT VIOLENT DISTURBANCES AT THE VENEZUELAN CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (REFTEL). ALL OF THE FIFTEEN HAVE PRIOR ARREST RECORDS; ONLY ONE IS SAID TO BE A UCV STUDENT.

3. (CO) COMMENT: THE DOUBLE ROUNDUP OF ULTRA-LEFTIST SUBVERSIVES DEMONSTRATES HOW EFFECTIVE VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN IN PENETRATING THE SMALL RADICAL GROUPS OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY. VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCE OPERATIONS DECIMATED SUBVERSIVE STRONGHOLDS IN EASTERN VENEZUELA LAST OCTOBER, AND THEY NOW SEEM TO BE FOCUSING ON WHAT REMAINS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. LANDAU

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