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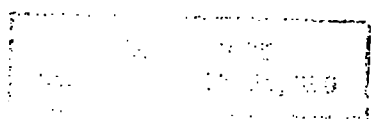
*Carroll*

*Weekly Situation Report  
on  
International Terrorism*

DO WSRIT 76-010

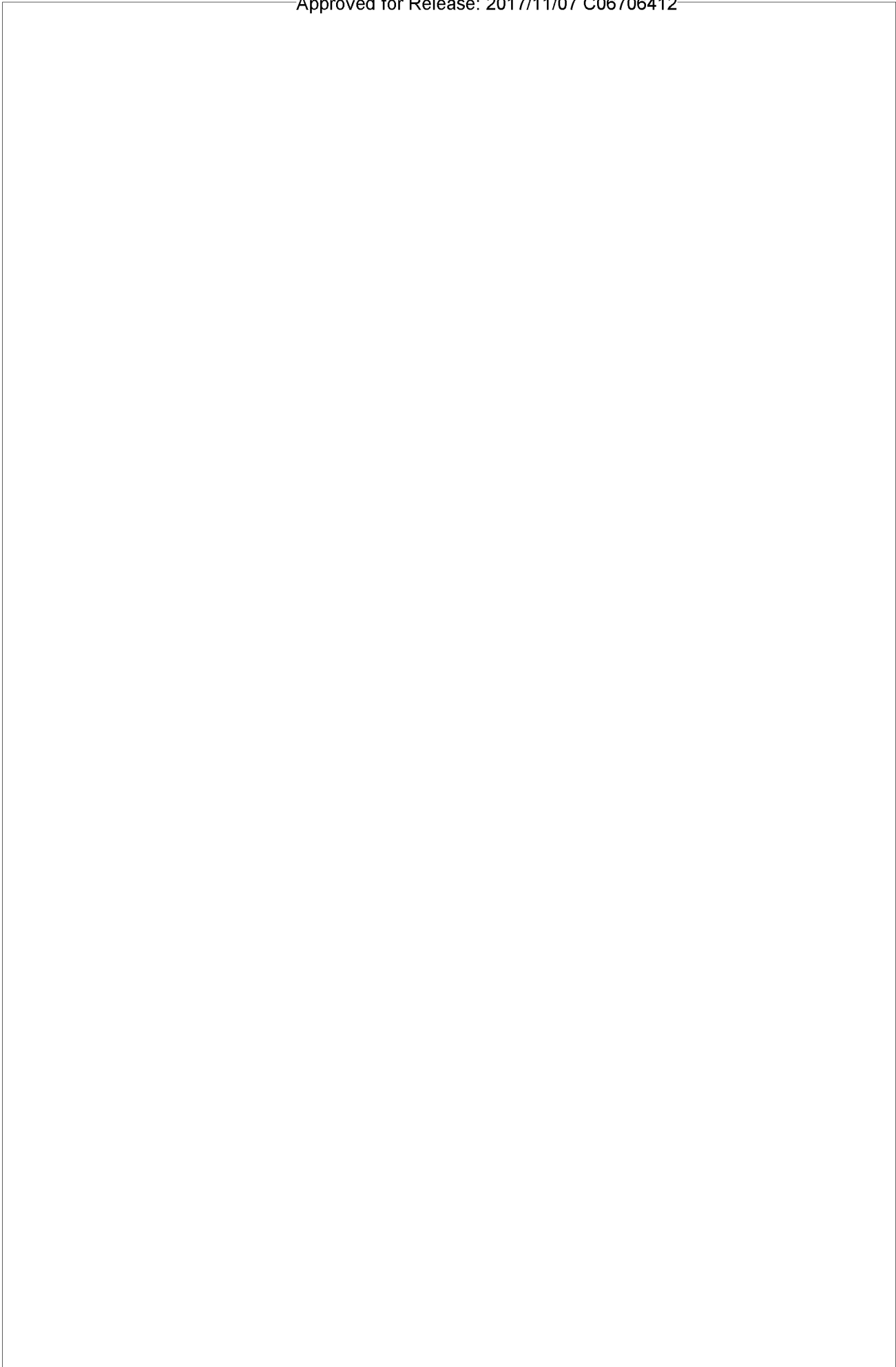
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# WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

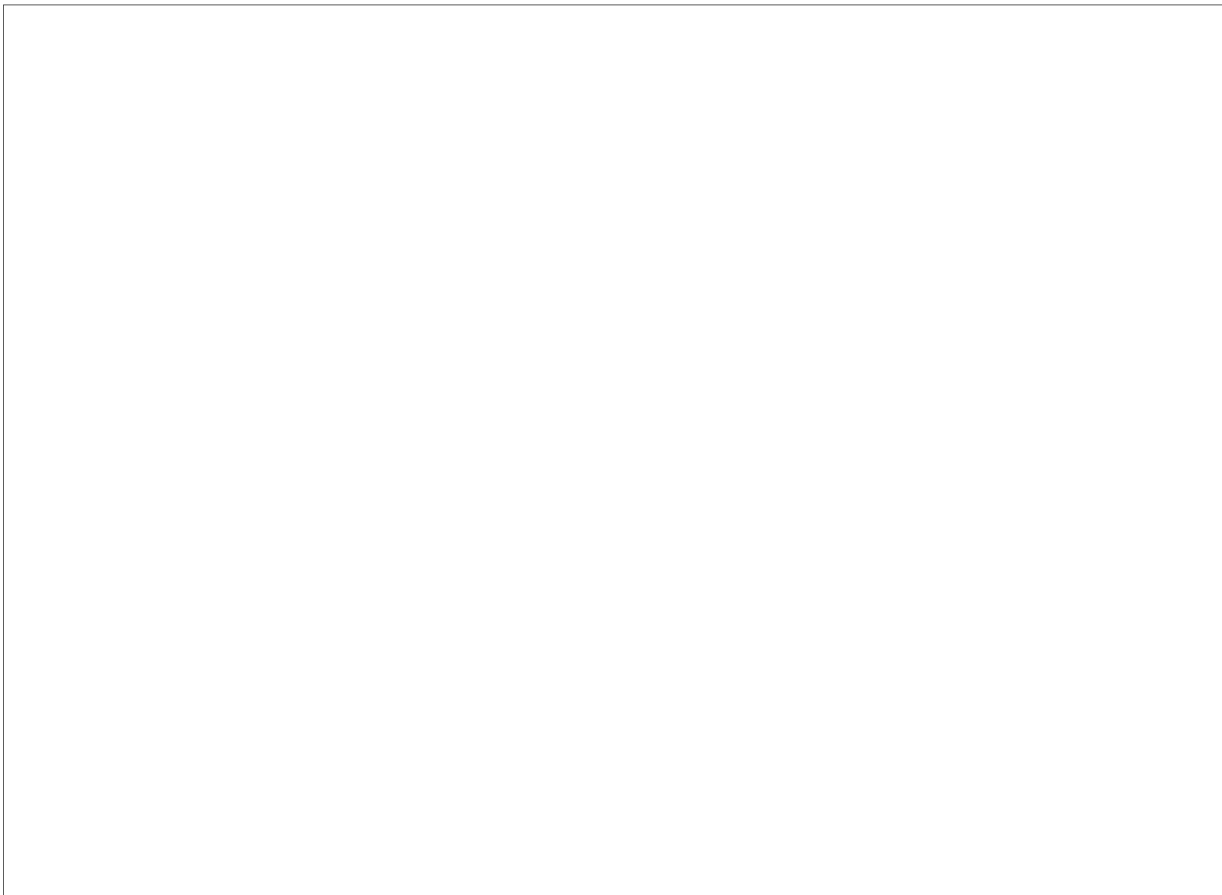
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No Progress in Niehous Kidnap Case (Page 3)



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No Progress in Niehous Kidnap Case

As of this date, there are no significant new developments in the case of William E. Niehous, the Owens-Illinois executive who was kidnapped in Caracas on 22 February by a group calling itself the Revolutionary Commandos. Niehous' kidnapers have thus far made only one demand. They have asked that 22 documents which allegedly show Owens-Illinois' "economic subversion" in Venezuela, and which were sent to the Attorney General's office as well as to a Venezuelan newspaper, be published in all Venezuelan newspapers plus the New York Times, the London Financial Times, and Le Monde, and that they be broadcast locally and internationally. Owens-Illinois has refused to take action on this demand until the group provides proof that it actually holds Niehous. At the present time there is no communication with the kidnapers.

The Venezuelan government is also taking a hard line on the kidnapping. President Perez described the kidnapers as "common criminals" because "... there are no guerrillas here." There is also evidence that the Venezuelan government has dissuaded editors of local papers from publishing the more hard-hitting parts of the kidnapers' communique. Earlier in the week, spokesmen for the extreme-leftist political parties publicly disassociated themselves from the Niehous kidnapers.

The police are continuing the search for Niehous' abductors, although not much progress is being made. On 2 March it was reported that the police had identified four members of the group, including a leader of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), as well as a leader of the Bandera Roja, but the government later stated that it had not definitely established the identity of any of the kidnapers. Leads in the case continue to be sparse, and the situation has been further confused by other groups' claiming credit for the abduction. The most spectacular of these claims was a leaflet bomb which was detonated on the campus of the Central University on 5 March. The leaflets contained demands for the distribution of food in the barrios, bonuses for Owens-Illinois employees, and the publication of the kidnapers' communique. [REDACTED]

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the leaflets did not come from the real kidnapers but from another group using the same name. Authorities are also continuing to investigate the possibility that members of groups from outside Venezuela are involved in the kidnapping.

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The Bandera

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Roja may be responsible for kidnapping U.S. business executive William Niehous on 27 February, and this kidnapping could be part of the planned anti-U.S. campaign.)

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