

~~Secret~~



(b)(3)



Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism

DO WSRIT 76-032

10 August 1976

~~Secret~~ 100

RECORD COPY
OPERATIONS STAFF/DDO

10 AUG 1976

SECRET

~~SECRET~~



(b)(3)

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

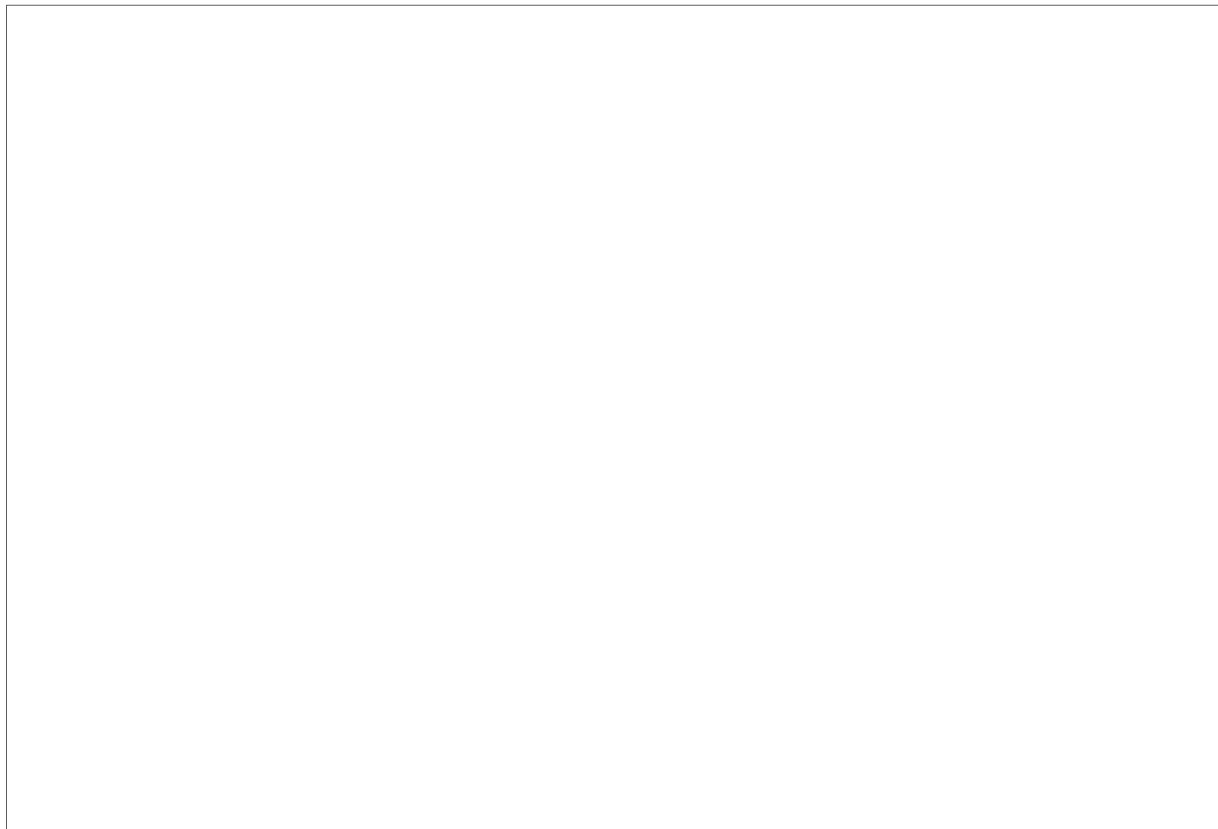
CONTENTS

10 August 1976



NR

Progress in Niehous Kidnapping Case (Page 3)



NR

~~SECRET~~



RECORD COPY
OPERATIONS STAFF/DDO

(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~ 10 AUG 1976

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

(b)(3)

Progress in Niehous Kidnapping Case

Venezuelan government officials believe that a series of intensive interrogations of several persons arrested during late July and early August in connection with the five-month old kidnapping case of U.S. businessman William Niehous has revealed the location of the victim. The interrogations also reportedly disclosed the involvement of two opposition members of the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies with the kidnapers.

The major change in the case occurred when the government arrested two persons as they were attempting to collect a part of the ransom demanded by the kidnapers (see the 27 July issue). Questioning of these persons indicated that Jorge Rodriguez, a left-wing leader of the Council of the Central University of Venezuela and Socialist League Secretary General, was also part of the kidnapping ring. However, subsequent interrogation of Rodriguez was so severe that the prisoner died of internal hemorrhaging without yielding the location where Niehous is held captive.

According to press reports, additional questioning of the two prisoners indicated that Deputy Salom Meza Espinoza of the socialist People's Electoral Movement (MEP) and Deputy Fortunato Herrera, former militant leader of the Democratic Republican Union (URD), among others, were involved with the kidnapers. Both deputies were arrested even before their congressional immunity was suspended, as the government feared they would try to leave the country or seek political asylum in one of several foreign embassies in Caracas.

Press reports of 3 August indicated that the government, following leads obtained from the interrogations, began a massive military operation to locate Niehous and to capture the kidnapers during early August. The operations are centered in San Jose de Guaribe, located approximately 250 miles south of Caracas. An unspecified number of local residents were arrested in connection with the kidnapers, but no additional information concerning the case was announced. President Carlos Andres Perez told reporters that he hopes to free Niehous, unharmed, in the near future as a result of this operation. [REDACTED]

(b)(3)

3

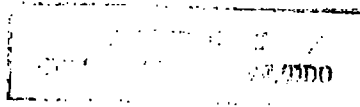
~~SECRET~~RECORD COPY
OPERATIONS STAFF/DDO

(b)(3)

SECRET

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~



SECRET