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COUNTRY: VENEZUELA/CUBA

DOJ: 1 APRIL 1977

SUBJECT: REACTION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT CHARGES OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT CUBAN/VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

ACQ: VENEZUELA, CARACAS (5 AUGUST 1977) FIELD NO. 7628

SOURCE: A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN FROM A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH GOOD ACCESS TO HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. HE IS A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE.

1. (FIELD COMMENT: ON 31 MARCH 1977 THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA (GOV) RECEIVED AN INFORMAL COMPLAINT FROM THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (USG) IS ATTEMPTING TO DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS. THE CUBANS SAID THAT THE USG HAD DELIBERATELY DIRECTED A FOREIGN NEWSMAN TO CONTACT CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO EXTRACT INFORMATION AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM THEM WHICH COULD BE USED IN AN ARTICLE ON THE 6 OCTOBER 1976 BOMBING OF A CUBANA AIRLINER AND THUS ATTEMPTING TO TIE THE GOV WITH CUBAN EXILES. THE CASE WAS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ON 1 APRIL. FOR THIS INFORMATION, SEE TDFIRDB-315/77, FROM THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT.)

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CUBAN CHARGES THAT THE USG IS ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT VENEZUELAN/CUBAN RELATIONS. FURTHERMORE, PEREZ PLANS TO ASK THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA FOR A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE NEWSMAN'S CLAIMS, AS RELAYED TO PEREZ BY CUBAN EMBASSY