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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ1216

E28

PAGE 01 CARACA 02670 01 OF 02 060104Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W			

-----E32D61 060104Z /45

R 032044Z SEP 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7502  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 002670

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLADNSC FOR LLORENS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/02/12  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, PHUM, VE  
SUBJECT: THE POLITICS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5  
(B) AND (D)

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SUMMARY  
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B1

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2. (U) PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ AND CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA, ONCE ALLIES, HAVE TAKEN THEIR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES TO CONTROL OF CARACAS'S METROPOLITAN POLICE (MP). THE CONTROVERSY HAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT THE COUNTRY'S SPOTLIGHT ON THE RIVALRY WHICH DATES BACK TO 1999, WHEN THE CONSTITUTION WAS NEW, AND HUGO CHAVEZ AND ALFREDO PENA WERE FRIENDS.

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B1

LIMITED THE MP'S ABILITY TO USE ITS HELICOPTER DURING PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. AS WAS THE CASE ON APRIL 11, MAYOR PENA DEMANDED THE HELICOPTER BE ALLOWED TO FLY ON JULY 13, WHEN ANOTHER OPPOSITION MARCH WAS ORGANIZED, BUT CHAVEZ REFUSED. IN EARLY AUGUST, THE HELICOPTER WAS AIRBORNE WHEN CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS GATHERED AT THE SUPREME COURT (TSJ) TO PROTEST THE CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES AGAINST FOUR MILITARY OFFICERS FOR REBELLION. CHAVEZ, HOWEVER, SOUGHT TO LIMIT

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W			

-----E32D71 060104Z /45

R 032044Z SEP 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7503  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 002670

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
NSC FOR LLORENS

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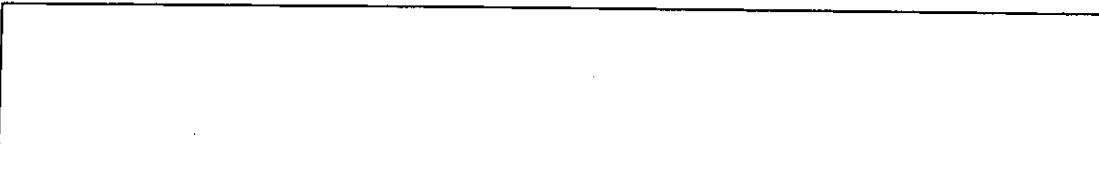
ITS USE LATER ANNOUNCING "I HAVE ISSUED ORDERS TO THE  
DEFENSE MINISTER NOT TO ALLOW THIS MP HELICOPTER TO TAKE  
OFF IF IT DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE VENEZUELAN  
AIR FORCE."

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B1

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THE NEXT STEP: A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE?  
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B1

PRESIDENT CHAVEZ NOW CLAIMS HE WANTS TO PREVENT  
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES FROM OCCURRING BY CREATING A NATIONAL  
POLICE FORCE THAT WOULD CENTRALIZE POLICE POWER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND JUSTICE. CHAVEZ'S CRITICS, AND  
ESPECIALLY MAYOR PENA, SEE THIS MOVE AS A THREAT. IN AN  
INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AUGUST 11 IN EL UNIVERSAL NEWSPAPER,  
PENA CLAIMED CHAVEZ WANTS THIS CONTROL TO BE ABLE TO LIMIT  
PROTESTS AGAINST HIM.

B1



IN EARLY  
AUGUST, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED PLANS TO CREATE A NATIONAL  
POLICE FORCE

B1

TOLD POLOFF THAT THE

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALREADY PASSED A LAW TO CREATE A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE IN 2001. UNDER THIS LAW, THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVEN ONE YEAR TO CREATE SUCH A FORCE. NGOS, ACADEMICS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO THE CONCEPT AND THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED THE IDEA.

B1

SHAPIRO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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