

UNCLASSIFIED

E10

UNCLASSIFIED

PTQ3504

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 CARACA 00717 01 OF 03 081335Z
ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	ED-01	UTED-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/020W	
				-----AC18DF 081339Z /38			

R 081336Z MAR 99
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 2214
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 000717

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOCI, MOPS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS LEAVE THEIR BARRACKS . . . TO
IMPLEMENT CHAVEZ'S CIVIL-MILITARY PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 00717 01 OF 03 081335Z

SUMMARY

1. SEVENTY THOUSAND SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND AIR FORCE MEN LEFT THEIR BARRACKS IN EACH OF VENEZUELA'S TWENTY-THREE STATES TO JOIN THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS TO IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S CIVIL-MILITARY PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM -- "PLAN BOLIVAR 2000" -- ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27. THE FIRST PHASE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PLAN WERE TO: CONDUCT A CENSUS OF THE UNEMPLOYED, PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO THE MOST NEEDY, RENOVATE SCHOOLS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND AMBULATORY MEDICAL CARE CENTERS, AND CLEAR GARBAGE FROM STREAMS AND STREETS. THE PLAN LAUNCHED ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "CARACAZO" -- THE 1989 SOCIAL UPRISING WHICH THE MILITARY PUT DOWN AT THE COST OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES. PRESIDENT CHAVEZ AIMED TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SEND THE MESSAGE THAT THE MILITARY WAS NOT A FORCE OF POPULAR REPRESSION, BUT RATHER A FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY. COMING ONLY 23 DAYS AFTER HIS INAUGURATION, CHAVEZ SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS CORE SUPPORTERS THAT HE HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THEM. WISHING TO ACT QUICKLY, CHAVEZ TURNED TO ONLY ORGANIZATION IN VENEZUELA CAPABLE OF RESPONDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY -- THE MILITARY. GOVERNORS AND MAYORS OF EVERY POLITICAL ORIENTATION SUPPORTED THE PROGRAM, AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAUL SALAZAR STATED BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THE MILITARY PORTION OF "PLAN BOLIVAR 2000" WOULD LAST ONLY 90 TO 180 DAYS. ONCE THE MILITARY HAS JUMP STARTED INFRASTRUCTURE RENOVATION EFFORTS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN WOULD BE ASSUMED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 00717 01 OF 03 081335Z

PLAN BOLIVAR 2000

2. BEGINNING AT 5:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 70,000 SOLDIERS, THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS, AND NATIONAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FANNED OUT ACROSS VENEZUELA TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST PHASE OF "PLAN BOLIVAR 2000" CALLED "PRO-PAIS." THESE WORKERS WERE ORGANIZED INTO 26 SOCIAL THEATERS OF OPERATION (TOS) -- ONE FOR EACH STATE, AND TWO IN THE STATES OF CARABOBO, APURE, TACHIRA, AND SUCRE. PRESIDENT CHAVEZ STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SET ASIDE 12 BILLION BOLIVARS (APPROX. USD 20.8 MILLION) FOR PLAN BOLIVAR 2000. IN ADDITION TO CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF THE UNEMPLOYED, THE "PRO-PAIS" WORKERS:

- PROVIDED MEDICAL CARE INCLUDING DENTAL AND OPHTHAMOLOGICAL EXAMS, CHECK-UPS, AND MINOR SURGERY;
- REPAIRED SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AMBULATORY CARE CENTERS, AND ROADS; AND
- STROVE TO CLEAN THE ENVIRONMENT BY CLEANING GARBAGE FROM STREETS AND STREAMS.

3. TOURING SEVERAL WORK SITES, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WAS GREETED BY MOBS OF EXCITED VENEZUELANES WHO SIMPLY WISHED TO SEE AND/OR TOUCH HIM, OR TO PRESENT THEIR COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS TO HIM. IN CARACAS' EL VALLE NEIGHBORHOOD, CHAVEZ SAID, "DO NOT ASK ME FOR MONEY. I AM NOT GOING AROUND HANDING OUT MONEY. THIS (PLAN BOLIVAR 2000) IS NOT A POPULIST PLAN." CONTINUING, CHAVEZ

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 00717 01 OF 03 081335Z
 STATED, "THE TRUTH IS THAT I AM VERY CONTENT BECAUSE ON THIS
 DATE, FEBRUARY 27, ON WHICH WE PAINFULLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED
 AND WHAT SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN, FROM THE EARLIEST HOURS OF
 THE MORNING, THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF VENEZUELA HAVE BEEN
 WORKING. THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES -- THE FOUR FORCES UNITED AS
 ONE, THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE GOVER-
 NORS, AND THE MAYORS HAVE BEEN ASSUMING THEIR DUTIES."

4. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE GOV LACKED RESOURCES, CHAVEZ SAID, "IT
 IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE FEW RESOURCES, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED
 THE SAYING THAT I LEARNED MANY YEARS AGO DURING BASIC TRAINING AS
 A SOLDIER OF FREDERICK THE GREAT, KING OF PRUSSIA, WHO SAID ONCE
 'THE MAN WHO PUTS HIS HEART INTO WHAT HE DOES FINDS RESOURCES
 WHERE INCAPABLE MEN ARE LEFT DEFEATED.' THE FIRST GREAT RESOURCE
 IS THE HUMAN BEING. WE ARE GOING TO PREVAIL."

 CENSUS OF THE UNEMPLOYED:

5. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, CENSUS TAKERS ATTEMPTED TO ASCERTAIN
 WHO IS UNEMPLOYED AND WHAT SKILLS THEY MIGHT HAVE. EFFORTS WILL
 BE MADE IN THE NEXT PHASE OF PLAN BOLIVAR 2000 TO INCORPORATE
 THESE UNEMPLOYED. IN CARACAS ALONE, NEARLY 20,000 PEOPLE REGIS-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ3505

PAGE 01 CARACA 00717 02 OF 03 081335Z
 ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	ED-01	UTED-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/020W	
-----AC18E6 081340Z /38							

R 081336Z MAR 99
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

USIA WASHDC 2215
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 000717

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SOCI, MOPS, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS LEAVE THEIR BARRACKS . . . TO
IMPLEMENT CHAVEZ'S CIVIL-MILITARY PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 00717 02 OF 03 081335Z

TERED AT THE MIRAFLORES PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND AT THE HEADQUAR-
TERS OF THE HONOR GUARD. OF THE FIRST 10,570 TO REGISTER, 1,700
INDICATED THAT THEY WERE PROFESSIONALS, BUT THE VAST MAJORITY,
8,870 STATED THAT THEY WERE UNSKILLED WORKERS.

THE FEDERAL DISTRICT:

6.

-- SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR PROJECTS WERE THE POPULAR MARKETS RUN
BY THE MILITARY. CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLEMEN, THE MILITARY SOLD
DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC PRODUCE AND MEAT THAT IT OBTAINED DIRECTLY
FROM THE PRODUCERS. COST SAVINGS WERE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUM-
ERS. AT ONE MARKET, MILITARY OFFICIALS INVESTIGATED THE COM-
PLAINT OF ONE WOMAN THAT SEVERAL SCALES WERE POORLY CALIBRATED.
ONE SCALE WAS FOUND TO BE OFF BY 400 GRAMS. THE GOVERNMENT
REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RUN THESE MARKETS EVERY TWO
WEEKS.

-- IN PETARE, A ENORMOUS LOWER-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD THAT SPRAWLS
ACROSS CARACAS' EASTERN HILLSIDES, TEAMS OF SOCIAL WORKERS
DELIVERED FOOD BASKETS TO THE NEEDIEST OF THE NEEDY.

-- BEGINNING IN THE PRE-DAWN HOURS, 100 METROPOLITAN POLICE
OFFICERS BEGAN SEARCHING FOR INDIGENTS, STREET CHILDREN, AND
BEGGARS AND BRINGING THEM TO THE LUIS ORDAZ INDIGENT CENTER. AT
TOTAL OF 86 PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT TO THE CENTER WERE THEY WERE
PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO BATHE AND GIVEN HAIRCUTS. EACH WAS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 00717 02 OF 03 081335Z

GIVEN A CLEAN SET OF CLOTHING AND NEW SHOES. THE CENTER ASSIGNED
EACH HOMELESS PERSON A SEAT IN ITS CAFETERIA AND WILL CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE THEM THREE MEALS A DAY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

ARAGUA STATE:

7.

-- SOLDIERS CLEARED STREAMS, DITCHES AND CANALS BOTH IN AN EFFORT TO CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO ERADICATE BREEDING AREAS OF DENGUE CARRYING MOSQUITOS. ADDITIONALLY, A 150-BED MILITARY HOSPITAL AND THE 400-BED VARGAS SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITAL WERE REFURBISHED.

-- TEAMS CLEARED SEVERAL RURAL ROADS OF GARBAGE.

-- DURING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE PLAN, ARAGUA OFFICIALS STATED THEY WOULD FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON PROVIDING PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CARE TO CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, AND THE INDIGENT. THE STATE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO RELIEVE THE BACKLOG OF 12,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE AWAITING MEDICAL CARE.

CARABOBO STATE:

8.

-- IN ONE CARABOBO STATE MUNICIPALITY, HEALTH CARE WORKERS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 00717 02 OF 03 081335Z
VACCINATED 235 PEOPLE, PROVIDED HYPER TENSION TREATMENTS TO 300 PEOPLE, AND CONDUCTED 150 GENERAL MEDICAL, 50 UROLOGICAL, AND 69 DENTAL CONSULTATIONS.

-- IN VALENCIA, THE STATE CAPITAL, 5 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE RENOVATED.

-- DRAINAGE SYSTEMS WERE UNCLOGGED TO PREVENT STAGNANT SITTING WATER WHICH IS THE IDEAL BREEDING GROUND FOR DENGUE CARRYING MOSQUITOS.

MIRANDA STATE:

9.

-- THE MIRANDA STATE FIREMEN OPENED A FIELD HOSPITAL WHERE FOUR TEAMS OF PARAMEDICS ATTENDED TO PATIENTS. THE NATIONAL GUARD PROVIDED THE MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

-- THE STATE INTENDS TO REACTIVATE 66 AMBULATORY MEDICAL CARE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. PLAN BOLIVAR 2000 TEAMS BEGAN WORK RENOVATING 20 OF THESE CENTERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ3508

PAGE 01 CARACA 00717 03 OF 03 081335Z
ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	ED-01	UTED-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/020W	
				-----AC18EF 081340Z /38			

R 081336Z MAR 99
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3337
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 2216
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 000717

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOCI, MOPS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS LEAVE THEIR BARRACKS . . . TO
IMPLEMENT CHAVEZ'S CIVIL-MILITARY PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 00717 03 OF 03 081335Z

ZULIA STATE:

10.

-- WORK BRIGADES OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS REMOVED GARBAGE FROM STREAM AND ERADICATED MOSQUITO BREEDING AREAS IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT DENGUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

-- AMBULATORY MEDICAL CARE CENTERS WERE OPENED TO PROVIDE OUT-PATIENT SURGICAL SERVICES.

LARA STATE:

11.

-- IN TWO LARA STATE MUNICIPALITIES, HEALTH CARE WORKERS ATTENDED TO 5,000 PATIENTS, AND CONDUCTED 100 MINOR SURGERIES IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE BACKLOG OF PEOPLE AWAITING MEDICAL ATTENTION.

TACHIRA STATE:

12.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 00717 03 OF 03 081335Z

-- AN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TURNED OUT TO JOIN MILITARY EFFECTIVES IN THEIR WORK.

-- ELEVEN SCHOOLS AND 7 PLAYING FIELDS WERE RENOVATED.

-- OVER 1,500 TREES WERE PLANTED.

-- IN THE STATE CAPITAL SAN CRISTOBOL, 150 SURGERIES WERE CARRIED OUT.

COMMENT

13. TO JUMP START HIS AMBITIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ TURNED TO THE ONLY ENTITY THAT IS CAPABLE OF QUICKLY TAKING ACTION THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA AND HAS THE NECESSARY PEOPLE, EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER RESOURCES -- THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY. THE FIRST PHAS OF "PLAN BOLIVAR 2000" ALLOWED CHAVEZ TO MEET AN IMPORTANT GOAL: SHOWING HIS POPULAR SUPPORT BASE THAT HE HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THEM, AND WOULD DO SOMETHING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO MEET PRESSING SOCIAL NEEDS. IT ALSO ALLOWED CHAVEZ TO ENGAGE NATIONAL, STAE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS USING THE ARMED FORCES AS A SUPPLIER OF RESOURCES AND A CATALYST.

14. MINISTER OF DEFNESE RAUL SALAZAR SAID, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT THE MILITARY WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PLAN FOR THE FIRST 60 TO 120 DAYS ONLY. GRADUALLY, THE MILITARY
ROLE WOULD DIMINISH AS STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, PRIVATE
COMPANIES, AND CIVILIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ASSUMED MORE REPONS-
IBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN BOLIVAR 2000. SALAZAR NOTED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 00717 03 OF 03 081335Z
THAT THE MILITARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PLAN WOULD NOT DIMINISH
ITS ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE NATIONALY DEFENSE.

MASON

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

UNCLASSIFIED