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COUNTRY: Venezuela
SUBJ: Take 1 of 2 -- Carlos Perez on Amparo Incident

SOURCE: Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish
2035 GMT 30 Nov 88 (Tentative)

TEXT:

[Speech by Carlos Andres Perez, presidential candidate for the ruling Democratic Action (AD), at Victoria Avenue in Caracas -- live; monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I have included clear, realistic, and feasible ideas in my government plan. I have drafted a plan for a safe future for Venezuela. We could say this plan includes the four main and essential aspirations of the Venezuelan people: full employment, personal safety, economic stability, and well-being for all. These four goals will be, in essence, our government action plan. It will be aimed at achieving a modern Venezuela.

I consider it my duty to present, on the same day I am sworn in and during my message to the Congress, a national strategic plan, the macroeconomic policy that will clearly state the path we shall follow. However, my commitment to national development will not prevent me from saying today, and tomorrow before the National Congress, that my first responsibility is with the poor people. I must fight the poverty once again invading Venezuela. [applause]

I would be lying if I were to say before this huge crowd, hundreds of thousands of residents of Caracas, that I am going to decree full employment. Full employment will be the result of the efforts we will undertake with the help of all the country's sectors. Our goal will be to increase production and productivity, expand our economy with the use of selective measures that will open the path toward an effective and efficient industrialization, and increase our export possibilities and [word indistinct] the main wealth our country has. However, before we do this, we will have to confront the problem of poverty in Venezuela. It is our duty to confront this problem with direct subsidies. [passage omitted]

At this time, I wish to discuss certain political incidents that demand I speak of them clearly and truthfully. The country has been shocked by the so-called El Amparo incident, a painful incident that

has occurred amid an election campaign when the strength of political propaganda can be bought to boost the interests of a specific party. This is what is happening with the El Amparo incident -- the El Amparo incident that shocked and continues to shock the Venezuelan people. The Venezuelan people want to hear the truth, all the truth, and only truth about what happened in EL Amparo. [applause]

The day after the El Amparo incident, I expressed the feelings of the people. I made statements on behalf of AD and as the party's presidential candidate. I expressed my doubts regarding the report presented by those who were involved in the incident. I asked the government for a clear and specific explanation regarding the happenings. The president of the republic was abroad at the time of the incident. Upon his return to the country, he explained what had happened. The president said that even though he had received a report from those who had been involved in the incident, he had ordered an investigation and that he would guarantee the country would know the truth, that no crime would be hidden from the people.

This is what Venezuelan democracy requests. We repudiate, we are hurt over, and we protest the loss of life as was the case in El Amparo. However, we also know things like this unfortunately happen throughout the world, in all regimes and governments, in the most civilized countries, everywhere. What is important is that democracy does not allow, nor should it allow, that a crime against the most precious right of man, the right to life, remain unpunished. [applause]

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