

[REDACTED]

Bernardo Alfonso LEAL Puchi  
(Phonetic: LAYahl)

VENEZUELA

Minister of National De-  
fense (since July 1981)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister

OFFICE OF  
CENTRAL REFERENCE

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Army Maj. Gen. Ber-  
nardo Leal holds one of  
Venezuela's most pres-  
tigious positions. As  
Minister of Defense, he  
has supported Venezuelan  
participation in joint  
military programs with  
the United States. An  
experienced artillery instructor, Leal has held the  
key posts of Inspector General (1979-80), the Army's  
second-ranking position, and Army Chief of Staff  
(1980-81). [REDACTED]

After graduating from the Military Academy in  
1952, Leal rose rapidly through the ranks. In ad-  
dition to teaching courses at the Armor and Artil-  
lery School in Caracas, he attended advanced mil-  
itary schools in the United States during 1962-63  
and in Spain in 1965. In 1970, after serving as an  
instructor at the Army War College, Leal was as-  
signed to the Plans Department of the General Staff  
Office at Army headquarters in Caracas. During the  
late 1970s he held several positions, including  
those of director of Army artillery (1976-77) and  
commander of the 1st Cavalry Division (1977-79). He  
then served briefly as director of Army education  
before becoming Inspector General. He has held the  
rank of major general since 1979. [REDACTED]

Leal has written numerous instructional and  
training manuals. He has received several military  
awards. Leal, 50, speaks some English. He is mar-  
ried to the former Juanita Perdoma and has three  
grown children: Bernardo, Jesús and Carmen. [REDACTED]

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