

IN 035667

(b)(3)

WARNING NOTICE MENNITY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

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SECRET

DISIP DIRECTOR AT THE URGING OF A GROUP OF WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN BASED IN ANEOATEGUI STATE. THESE BUSINESSMEN HAD MADE LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 1973 ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HAD AGREED TO BACK LEPAGE TO OBTAIN THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (AD) IN 1978 AND ULTIMATELY THE PRESIDENCY.

3. WHEN RODRIGUEZ WAS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIDNAPPING OF THE UNITED STATES BUINESSMAN WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS, LEPAGE WARNED LANDER AGAINST HARMING RODRIGUEZ PARTIALLY AS A PROTECTION FOR LANDER'S ONN POSITION. LANDER, HOWEVER, TURNED RODRIGUEZ OVER TO HUMBERTO G I F F U N I. WHO WAS THEN DISIP'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR. GIFFUNI, IN TURN. ORDERED THAT RODRIGUEZ BE BEATEN. COMMENT: FOR AN EARLIER (b)(1) (b)(3) REPORT ON RODRIGUEZ' DEATH ON 25 JULY 1976 WHILE IN DISIP CUSTODY

SEE

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4. WHEN THE NEWS OF RODRIGUEZ' DEATH WAS RECEIVED, LEPAGE WAS AWARE THAT SOME ACTION AGAINST LANDER WAS NECESSARY; HOWEVER, HE FEARED THAT ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE SUPPORT OF THE ANZOATEGUI GROUP. LEPAGE, THEREFORE, DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ WHO INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT RUNNING FOR

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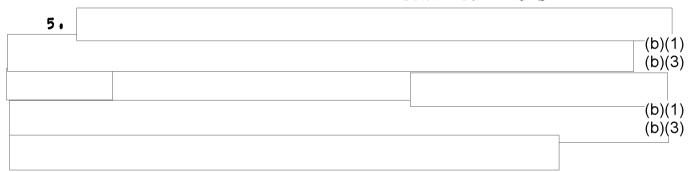
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RE-ELECTION IN 1978 AND DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE LOSS OF THIS SUPPORT. FURTHERMORE, PEREZ ORDERED LEPAGE TO PREPARE LWNDER'S WRITTEN RESIGNA-TION AND HAVE IT READY FOR LANDER'S IMMEDIATE SIGNATURE.



6. THE FOUR DISIP OFFICERS ACCUSED OF BEATING RODRIGUEZ TO DEATH DID NOT, IN FACT, COMMIT THE CRIME. THESE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, HAVE AGREED TO STAND TRIAL AND BE SENTENCED FOR THE CRIME IN RETURN FOR A PAYMENT OF BS. 250,000 (APPROXIMATELY U.S. 58,411) TO EACH OFFICER. THEY HAVE FURTHERMORE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY WILL BE RELEASED FROM ANY PRISON SENTENCE WITHIN 12 TO 18 MONTHS.

7. THIS OFFER WAS MADE BY GIFFUNI AT THE DIRECTION OF ERASTO F E R N A N D E Z, HEAD OF ONE OF THE SEVERAL EXTRA-OFFICAL PRESI-ENTIAL SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE UNITSM FERNANDEZ, WHO AT THAT TIME WAS IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING, HAS ACCESS TO LARGE AMOUNTS OF OFFICIAL FUNDS AND IS SUPPLYING THE MONEY FOR THE PAYOFFS. THE IDENTITY OF RODRIGUEZ' KILLER IS

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| NOT KNOWN, AT LEAST PART OF THE BEATING WHICH F | | |
| WAS ADMINISTERED IN A HOUSE IN THE EL CAFETAL AF Belongs to Fernandez. | REA OF CARACAS WHICH | |
| 8, COMMENT: | (b)(1) (b)(3) | |
| PRESIDENT PEREZ IS UNHAPPY WITH F | | |
| THE NIEHOUS/RODRIGUEZ AFFAIR. AS A RESULT, FERN | | |
| THE PRESIENT APPEARS TO HAVE CONSIDERABLY DIMIN | | |
| APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED BRIG. GENERAL RAU: G I M | E N E Z GAINZA, ONE | |
| OF FERNANDEZ" CHIEF RIVALS FOR PRESIDENTAIL FAV | OR IN THE SECURITY/ | |
| INTELLIGENCE FIELD, AS LANDER'S REPLACEMENT IS | A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK | |
| TO FERNANDEZ WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE NOMINA | TION OF LANDER AS | |
| DIRECTOR OF DISIP.) | (b)(1) | |
| 9. | (b)(1) (b)(3) | |
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