

FORM 6-76 30068

C

~~SECRET~~

ROUTINE  
IN 0401087A  
PAGE 001 OF 005



DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

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

STATE/DIR FBI SDO  
(HARD COPIES TO: NSC/S D/DCI/NFAC  
WHSITRM D/ORPA D/CRG D/SECUR D/OMS).

Classified by Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 5B (1), (2) impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON

-----  
EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH

**"EXCLUSIVE FOR" DOCUMENT**

CITE [redacted]  
DIST 05 JUN 78

(b)(3)

COUNTRY: VENEZUELA  
SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KIDNAPPING OF WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS [redacted]  
SOURCE: SEE BELOW.

SUMMARY: THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE 1976 KIDNAPPING OF UNITED STATES BUSINESSMAN WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS. THIS GROUP IS BEING HEADED BY RAFAEL RIVAS VASQUEZ WHO IS TECHNICALLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE SERVICES OF INTELLIGENCE AND PREVENTION (DISIP). RIVAS, HOWEVER, IS IN THE MIDST OF A POWER STRUGGLE WITH HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR, RETIRED GENERAL RAUL GIMENEZ GAINZA, THE DIRECTOR OF DISIP. GIMENEZ, WHO FULLY EXPECTS RIVAS TO FAIL, THUS ENDING HIS CAREER, IS INDEPENDENTLY PURSUING THE CASE IN THE EASTERN STATES OF VENEZUELA, BOTH THROUGH DISIP PEOPLE UNDER HIS COMMAND AND AN EXTRA-OFFICIAL SECURITY UNIT OPERATING IN THE AREA. END SUMMARY.

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE SHOWN ONLY TO CIA REQUESTERS (1) (2) (3). COPIES MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO ANYONE EXCEPT THROUGH DSB/CID/GGL

1. [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

ES162016-5

C  
SECRET

IN 0801087A

(b)(3)

WARNING NOTICE  
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PAGE 002 OF 005

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

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

2. ACTING ON RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT KIDNAPPED UNITED STATES BUSINESSMAN WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS WAS ALIVE AS OF MARCH 1977, THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS STEPPING UP ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE. TO CARRY THIS FORWARD, A SPECIAL OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ACT AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE INVESTIGATION. THIS OFFICE IS HEADED BY RAFAEL R I V A S VASQUEZ, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE SERVICES OF INTELLIGENCE AND PREVENTION (DISIP), AND WILL CALL UPON DISIP, THE DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (DIM), AND THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) FOR SUPPORT.

3. THE NIEHOUS INVESTIGATIVE GROUP WILL HAVE A STAFF OF SIX DISIP OFFICERS AND 12 UNDERCOVER AGENTS ARE TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE CASE AS INVESTIGATORS AND SURVEILLANTS. ADDITIONAL MEN WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE GROUP ON AN AD HOC BASIS. THE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO HAVE AN OPERATING BUDGET OF BS. 85,000 (U.S. \$19,860) PER MONTH.

4. THE TEAM PLANS ON REINTERROGATING THOSE INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIDNAPPING, RECONTACTING INFORMANTS WHO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN THE CASE IN THE PAST, AND RE-IMPLEMENTING SURVEILLANCE OF SUSPECTS IN THE CASE WHO ARE STILL AT LARGE. IN THIS REGARD, VENEZUELAN SECURITY OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF HAS BEEN UNINSPIRED, SINCE MOST AUTHORITIES WERE CONVINCED THAT NIEHOUS WAS DEAD. THE NEWLY RECEIVED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT HE WAS ALIVE AS OF

SECRET

SECRET

IN 0801057A

(b)(3)

**WARNING NOTICE**  
**SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED**

PAGE 003 OF 005

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

MARCH 1977 HAS THROWN A NEW LIGHT ON THE CASE.

5.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

6. DESPITE THE CREATION OF THE NEW NIEHOUS INVESTIGATION TEAM CHARGED WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE CASE, RETIRED GENERAL RAUL G I M E N E Z GAINZA, THE DIRECTOR OF DISIP, IS INDEPENDENTLY PURSUING THE CASE. GIMENEZ IS CONVINCED THAT NIEHOUS WILL BE FOUND, WHETHER DEAD OR ALIVE, IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AREA OF GUARICO STATE WHERE GUARICO, ANZOATEGUI AND BOLIVAR STATES MEET. GIMENEZ, THEREFORE, HAS DISPATCHED A TWELVE-MAN DISIP TEAM TO THE AREA. GIMENEZ HAS NOT INFORMED RIVAS OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE NIEHOUS CASE.

7. IN DISCUSSING RIVAS' ASSIGNMENT TO THE NIEHOUS CASE, GIMENEZ SAID THAT HE FULLY EXPECTS RIVAS TO FAIL IN HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CASE. FURTHERMORE, HIS FAILURE WOULD SPELL THE END OF RIVAS' CAREER WITH THE SECURITY SERVICES, GIMENEZ OPINED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: GIMENEZ DISLIKES RIVAS, WITH WHOM HE EXCHANGED BLOWS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND HAS BEEN TRYING TO OUST HIM AS DISIP'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR. RIVAS' FRIENDSHIP WITH INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO L E P A G E HAS ENABLED HIM TO MAINTAIN HIS DISIP TITLE AND SALARY, ALTHOUGH RIVAS IS GIVEN NO DISIP WORK TO FULFILL. GIMENEZ OBVIOUSLY HOPES RIVAS WILL FAIL AND WILL PROBABLY DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO SEE THAT HE DOES.)

(b)(3)  
(b)(1)

8.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

SECRET

C

SECRET

II. 08010674

(b)(3)

**WARNING NOTICE  
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED**

PAGE 004 OF 005

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

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

9. MEANWHILE, VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT AS OF OCTOBER 1977 NIENHUS WAS ALIVE AND BEING HELD IN VARIOUS LOCALITIES IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF VENEZUELA.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Redacted] THE KIDNAPPERS, [Redacted] PERIODICALLY MOVE NIENHUS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER. THEY ALSO CONTINUOUSLY CHANGE THE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH DELIVERING FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO THEM.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Redacted] THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO GIMENEZ AND RETIRED MAJOR JOSE T I R A D O MADRID, THE FIELD COMMANDER OF AN EXTRA-OFFICIAL SECURITY UNIT WHICH OPERATES IN THE EASTERN STATES UNDER GIMENEZ' COMMAND.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

10. [Redacted] COMMENT: WHILE THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRULY ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THE NIENHUS CASE, PERSONALITIES WITHIN THE CONFLICTS AMONG THE VARIOUS SECURITY GROUPS HAVE HAMPERED THE INVESTIGATION. AS SEEN FROM THE ABOVE, THIS SITUATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE.)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

11.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

12.

13. WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO STATE

EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, IIR

TO FBI

EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,

SECRET

C

SECRET

IA 0801087A

(b)(3)

WARNING NOTICE  
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PAGE 005 OF 005

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

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

REPORT CLASS SECRET--WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE  
SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--  
NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANTS--DISSEMINATION  
AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

AGDS-2.

(b)(3)

SECRET