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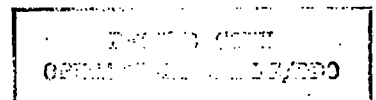
*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

DO WSRI 76-015

13 April 1976

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13 APR 1976



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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

13 April 1976

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Niehous Kidnappers Make Final Demands (Page 3)

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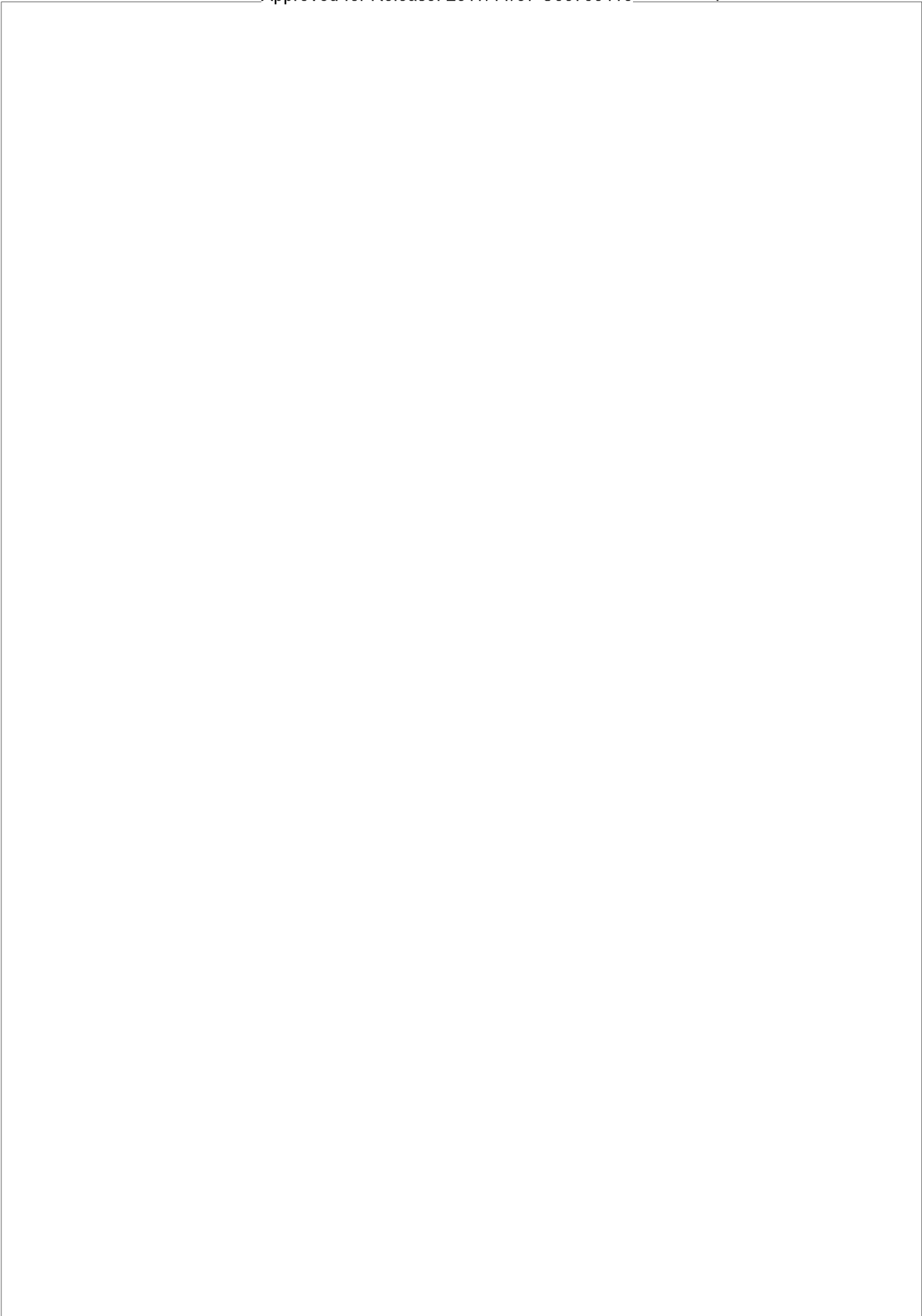
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Niehous Kidnappers Make Final Demands

During the past week an attempt by Owens-Illinois to break the deadlock with William Niehous' kidnappers resulted in a rift between Owens-Illinois and the government of Venezuela. Owens-Illinois tried to comply with two of the kidnappers' demands by publishing the terrorists' original communique in the New York Times, the London Times and Le Monde, and by paying each of its Venezuelan employees a bonus equivalent to US \$116. The Venezuelan government, which was still maintaining a hard line toward the kidnappers, became extremely upset and retaliated by initiating expropriation of Owens-Illinois assets in Venezuela. Negotiations between Owens-Illinois and the Venezuelan government concerning the expropriation are still continuing.

On 10 April Niehous' abductors released what they called their "final offer with regard to the conditions that would bring about the immediate freedom of Mr. William Frank Niehous in complete mental and bodily health." In the communique, the terrorists continued to demand that Owens-Illinois reach a compromise with the Ministry of Interior so that the kidnappers' 28 February communique as well as the 10 April communique could be published locally. Additionally, they demanded an unspecified sum of money to pay for the purchase of bags of food and other social assistance for the poor, to cover the expenses for Niehous' imprisonment, and to provide a "bond" as a guarantee that Niehous will not intervene in Venezuela's internal affairs. The communique also says that Owens-Illinois will be informed later as to the channels through which the ransom is to be paid. The press speculates that the ransom may run as high as US \$2.3 million.

[redacted] the "final communique" is noticeably strident in tone and appears designed to push Owens-Illinois into further conflict with the government. For example, the terrorists accuse the company of dragging out negotiations in order to give the government a chance to identify and capture a terrorist messenger. They also claim that the expropriation of Owens-Illinois was nothing but a maneuver on the part of the government. [redacted] feel the message does not suggest that the terrorists plan to kill Niehous but rather that they are prepared to hold him indefinitely. [redacted]

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