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Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism

DO WSRIT 76-027

6 July 1976

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

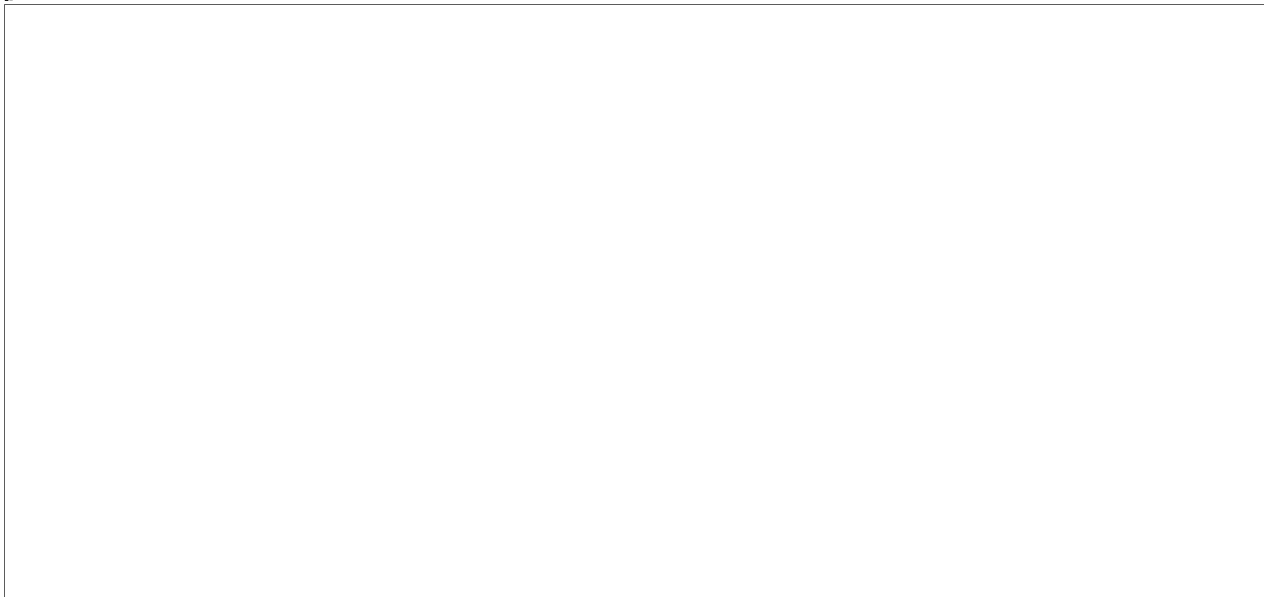
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Handwritten marks on the left margin, including several curved lines and dots.





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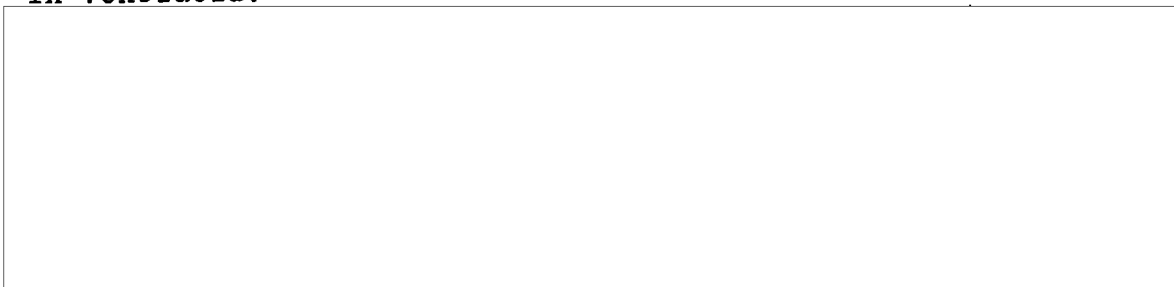
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Efforts Continue to Obtain Release of Niehous in Venezuela

The kidnapers of Owens-Illinois executive William E. Niehous in Venezuela have forwarded to one of the negotiators, a Niehous family friend, a personal letter from Niehous to his wife and another letter to Owens-Illinois containing current instructions from the presumed kidnapers. The letter from the kidnapers is more ominous than previous communiques, although it bears a declaration of respect for Mr. Niehous. In the letter, dated 29 June 1976, the kidnapers chastise Owens-Illinois and the Venezuelan government for a lack of proper interest in the welfare of Mr. Niehous. The kidnapers insist that a part of the ransom payment be delivered in Venezuela as evidence that Owens-Illinois wishes to end this stage of negotiations and to verify that measures undertaken by the kidnapers for payment abroad of the balance will not be in vain. The kidnapers requested that Owens-Illinois inform them how much of the total "indemnification" (sic, ransom payment) is available to be paid in Venezuela.



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On 1 July [redacted] said that Venezuelan authorities have pursued all available leads in the Niehous kidnapping and that the investigation has reached a complete impasse. The kidnapers appear to be exceptionally professional, and the Venezuelan government is at a loss as to how it should proceed. [redacted] believes the lack of success in resolving the Niehous abduction is having a detrimental effect on the image of the Venezuelan government and that foreign businessmen now are reluctant to enter or return to Venezuela for fear that they will not be protected adequately from kidnappings. [redacted]



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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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