

**SECRET**

MAR 22 2006

OFFICE OF THE  
SECURITY ASSISTANT  
2006 MAR 23 PM 1:49

**INFO MEMO**

(68)

DSD  
USDP

MAR 22 2006

I-06/002588-ES  
ES-5278  
I-06/022806-31  
ES 5282

**MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

**FROM:** Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) *pmr* MAR 22 2006

**SUBJECT:** Suggestions on Venezuela/Charges of Corruption (2)

~~(C)~~ You asked about ways to expose Venezuelan corruption and Cuban black marketing.

~~(S)~~ We agree that corruption is Chavez's Achilles Heel. Specifically, there is substantial evidence of corruption by Vice President Rangel, Chavez's closest confidant and the most feared member of his inner circle.

~~(C)~~ The Cubans have long employed black marketing as a way to purchase scarce goods and to supplement their meager income. Recently, Castro has cracked down by replacing gas attendants, retail store and bank clerks with loyal Communist Youth Party members.

~~(S)~~ State created a Public Diplomacy (PD) Task Force (Tab A) to implement the Western Hemisphere Public Outreach strategy approved at the February 7, 2006 Venezuela PC.

- o ~~(S)~~ This group will create and implement PD activities designed to seize the information initiative, and exploit such issues as the ones MoD Ospina mentioned.
- o ~~(C)~~ We will explore using Peruvian, Brazilian, and other regional media to deliver the message.

~~(S)~~ The Interagency Venezuela Illicit Finance Group has targeted eleven Venezuelans for possible illegal activity associated with corruption. Currently there are no pending criminal charges or requests for extradition.

- o ~~(S)~~ The group will continue to collect information and consider next step options that may lead to criminal charges against corrupt Venezuelans.
- o ~~(S)~~ We will ask the PD Task Force to coordinate with the Illicit Finance Group to find ways to expose corruption without hindering ongoing investigations.

(U) We will keep you informed on these initiatives.

Coordination: Tab B

Prepared by: LTC Linwood Ham, ISA/WHA, 697-9301  
Classified by: Multiple sources Declassify on: 15 Mar 2015

**SECRET**

**OSD 75675-06**

22-03-06 12:45 IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 28, 2006

I-06/002588  
ES-5278

TO: Eric Edelman

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *RA.*

SUBJECT: Suggestions on Venezuela

You ought to think through the points made by the MoD of Colombia about how we could use:

1. Corruption against the Venezuelan government
2. The fact that there are a great many people in Cuba who operate in the black market.

There must be some way to use those in a way that helps the people of Venezuela understand what is really happening.

You also ought to look into the point he made about getting extradition requests from the US to deal with Venezuelan military people and others who have disobeyed the law. He said to check with the Justice Department to find out what they have pending, because it makes the people fearful and behave better. He thinks using the international legal system is the best way to go at Venezuela.

Thanks.

DHR dh  
022806-27

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*Please Respond By 03/23/06*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OSD 75675-06

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 28, 2006

ES-5282

022806-31

TO: Eric Edelman

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR*

SUBJECT: Charges of Corruption

Please don't forget that the MoD of Colombia suggested that we feed any charges of corruption through the Brazilian and Peruvian press.

Thanks.

DHR  
022806-31

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OSD 75675-06

01-03-06 13:11 IN

A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

Summary of Conclusions for  
Meeting of the NSC Principals Committee  
DATE: February 7, 2006  
LOCATION: White House Situation Room  
TIME: 2:30 - 4:15 p.m.

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions of Principals Committee Meeting  
on Western Hemisphere Strategy (C)

PARTICIPANTS:

Chair  
Steve Hadley

OVP  
John Hannah

State  
Robert Zoellick  
Thomas Shannon

Treasury  
Robert Kimmitt  
Nancy Lee

Defense - (SVTS)  
Secretary Donald Rumsfeld  
Eric Edelman

Justice  
Alberto Gonzales

Commerce  
Secretary Carlos Gutierrez

Energy  
Secretary Sam Bodman

Chief of Staff  
Andrew Card

OMB  
Rob Goldberg

USTR  
Rob Portman

DNI  
AMB John Negroponte  
John Maher

WH Counsel  
Harriet Miers

NSC/NEC  
Faryar Shirzad

JCS - (SVTS DOD Site)  
GEN Peter Pace  
COL Scott Dennis

MCC  
John J. Danilovich

White House  
J.D. Crouch II

NSC  
Dan Fisk  
Mike Kozak

USDP HAS SEEN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: V. Phillip Lago  
Reason: 1.4(b) (d)  
Declassify on: 2/8/16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Summary of Conclusions

It was agreed that:

- Our strategy and policy implementation, including our public diplomacy messages, should focus on linking democracy and development, developing strategic partners, keeping a focus on achieving success in Colombia, and keeping the momentum on the trade agenda, including bringing CAFTA into effect and pursuing a larger regional integration initiative. (C)
- The Action Plans submitted to the PC are approved, namely:
  - The Western Hemisphere Democracy and Economic Development Action Plan;
  - The Multilateral Strategy for the Western Hemisphere;
  - The Western Hemisphere Near-Term Energy Action Plan;
  - The Public Outreach Strategy for the Western Hemisphere; and
  - Strategic Partnerships: Guidance on Objectives, Principles, and Next Steps. (C)
- The Western Hemisphere and Transnational Economic Policy PCCs, in implementing these action plans are to:
  - Ensure that exchange programs and military-to-military programs are appropriately addressed in the relevant action plan implementation;
  - Develop indicators for measuring progress in achieving our policy objectives;
  - Take the steps necessary to more effectively convey our public diplomacy messages throughout the hemisphere, including through the formation of an interagency task force specifically tasked with developing messages, information, and materials and the means for transmission to relevant recipients throughout the hemisphere; and
  - Develop a re-articulation of our hemispheric policy using the NSC-drafted "Opportunity Partnership of the Americas" as the framework for a bold and aggressive effort to convey the larger message, in terms understandable to the average person, that it is democracy and free markets that best address their concerns of jobs/economic opportunity, security, and good government. (C)
- The Western Hemisphere and Transnational Economic Policy PCCs are tasked with overseeing, on a weekly basis, the proactive implementation of these action plans and the additional PC taskings and with reporting monthly on implementation status to the Deputies. (Action: State and NSC-lead, Treasury, DOD, Justice, Commerce, Energy, USTR, MCC) (C)

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## Formation of a Western Hemisphere Public Diplomacy Task Force

### Program

Creation of a Western Hemisphere Strategic Communications Task Force charged with implementing an action plan of outreach to publics in the hemisphere. The Task Force will be hemisphere in scope, with a strong focus on Venezuela.

### Role of the Task Force:

The task force will address short- and long-term challenges to the hemispheric consensus on democracy and free market economies by:

- correcting misinformation and addressing misperceptions of the U.S. and its policies;
- exposing and publicizing the efforts of anti-democratic actors to undermine democratic institutions; and
- linking U.S. trade, democracy, security, and economic policies to poverty reduction and social justice for the region's marginalized majority.

The task force will review and implement the Venezuela Strategic Communication Action Plan. It will also develop and implement longer-term initiatives that show the commitment of the U.S. to transform the hemisphere into a region where the benefits of democracy, free markets and economic prosperity are accessible to all levels of society. The task force will report its activities and accomplishments on a regular basis to the interagency, and will devise methods of measuring its effectiveness.

### Composition of the Task Force:

The task force will initially consist of representatives of State, NSC, USAID, DOD (including OSD and JS), the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Homeland Security and Treasury, IBB (VOA), the, and CIA. The Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and the Office of the Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs will co-chair the task force.