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**TERMINATION
PHASE-OUT
STUDY**
**PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT
VENEZUELA**

APRIL, 1974

**AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523**

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STANLEY W. GUTH

BRYAN L. QUICK

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. A.I.D. funded police assistance overseas was prohibited by the recently passed Foreign Assistance Act and is consequently being terminated. In the phase-out of these projects, future development of the civil police forces and their role in Venezuela's economic, political and security posture become matters for concern. Of equal concern is what, if any, effect this premature termination of U.S. assistance will have on current and future U.S. interests in Venezuela.

This report presents the findings of the study conducted with these objectives in mind. An evaluation is made of the past and present security and developmental situation in the country; the civil security forces' operations and the role they have played in the context of their own society; A.I.D. Public Safety efforts in accomplishing project goals and contributing to U.S. objectives and interests. An appraisal is provided relative to the expected effect the termination of police assistance will have on future progress and development of the civil security forces. Subsequent actions by both USG and Venezuela toward the continued development of responsible, professional and responsive law enforcement in Venezuela are recommended and offered for consideration.

B. Conduct of the Evaluation

The evaluation team was composed of the following members: Stanley W. Guth, OPS/W, and Bryan L. Quick, OPS/W. The team arrived in Caracas on March 23, 1974 and remained until April 6, 1974 to conduct the in-country evaluation. This consisted of interviews and discussions with officials of the U.S. country team, Venezuelan Government and on-site visits to the Fuerzas Armadas de Cooperación (FAC), also known as the National Guard, the Technical Judicial Police (PTJ), the Caracas Metropolitan Police (PM) and the Office of Police Coordination. (A list of persons contacted is in Attachment A.)

All persons contacted were most cooperative. They were very frank in their comments concerning the internal security situation, the police and the Public Safety assistance program. Prior to departure from Venezuela the team discussed findings of a general nature with officials of the U.S. Embassy.

This report is a brief classified supplement to the original report and will therefore not repeat material contained therein unless some reference is required for clarity.

II. SUMMARY

A. Impact of Program Termination

The major threat to the country is criminality. Urban terrorist acts especially kidnappings and bombings will continue to occur and challenge the government. The new President, Carlos Andrés Pérez, recognizes that the current threats to public safety can affect the advancement of economic and human progress in Venezuela in drastic ways. Recognizing that threats to public order can challenge the stability of the government, the President has taken a firm position to control a rising crime rate, international drug trafficking and organized terrorist activities. The President is expected to create a national police organization to consolidate all law enforcement programs.

On March 29, 1974, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Otto Marin Gomez officially advised the U.S. Ambassador of their interest in continuing U.S. Public Safety assistance. Officials of the National Guard, the Technical Judicial Police, the Metropolitan Police, the Office of Police Coordination expressed their strong interest in obtaining continued police assistance in the near future.

It is considered that the present emphasis of U.S. technical assistance to upgrade police standards, police administration, and to strengthen narcotics enforcement and anti-terrorist countermeasures is important to the stability and progress of Venezuela. The effective, friendly relations between the Public Safety staff and their GOV police counterparts can do much to encourage cooperation and understanding between the two countries. It was readily apparent to the team that the Public Safety program has been well received, and is highly valued. None of the GOV officials contacted were negative in their comments on the assistance thus far provided.

B. Observations and Conclusions

The competency and leadership of the GOV police varies considerably from very good to very poor. The FAC, PTJ and PM are at the top of the spectrum, and many of the state/local forces are at the bottom. Complete politicization and inefficiency in the police forces appears to be the norm at the local level. Indications are that the GOV is committed to improvement of all its police forces, and will work to this end with or without U.S. assistance. However,

GOV officials stated that Public Safety advice is desired, and that Venezuela is willing to pay for the assistance program.

C. Recommendations

Given the interest of the GOV in Public Safety assistance, and its willingness to fund such a program, it is recommended that GOV request for continued assistance under Section 607 of the Foreign Assistance Act be given favorable consideration.

III. U. S. INTERESTS

U.S. investment in Venezuela is estimated at over three billion dollars, the majority of which is in the petroleum industry, and which represents about one fourth of all U.S. investments in Latin America. Venezuela is the major petroleum producing country of Latin America, and the largest supplier of petroleum and petroleum products to the U.S. In view of these interests, the stability and climate of security, which are considered the basis for a prosperous and democratic country, cannot be ignored. The U.S. Ambassador and Country Team have assessed that the continuation of Public Safety assistance on a reimbursable basis is commensurately beneficial to both countries, and clearly within the context of U.S. interests in Venezuela.

IV. THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

All major aspects of the program have been reviewed and discussed in the unclassified section of this phase-out study. Termination of the program is not considered likely to cause regression in achievements to date. However, unless "607" Public Safety assistance is approved, progress in up-coming GOV police improvement plans will be much slower.

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Brigadier General Lucio Cárdenas Ramirez, Commander General of the FAC, stated that in view of the long and close ties between the U.S. and Venezuela, our mutually beneficial interests and a need for close cooperation, close association in law enforcement matters was highly desirable, and indeed essential. Furthermore, Venezuela has relied heavily on U.S. advice and training in its police improvement efforts, and that Public Safety assistance has had a greater influence on Venezuelan law enforcement than any other factor. He stated that U.S. training has been highly beneficial and preferred this training as U.S. police methods are more suitable

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to Venezuela's needs. Venezuela is entering a critical period in its police organization, and continued Public Safety assistance is highly important at this stage. Other GOV officials interviewed expressed similar views.

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PERSONS INTERVIEWED BY PUBLIC SAFETY EVALUATION TEAM

March 23 - April 6, 1974

United States Embassy, Caracas

Ambassador Robert McClintock
John W. Fisher, Deputy Chief of Mission
Christopher A. Norred, Jr., Economic & Political
Counselor, AID Affairs Officer
Virgil P. Randolph III, Political Counselor
Wade Thomas, Political Officer
Terry Ward, Political Officer
Robert Hultslander, Political Officer
Joseph Leo, Legal Attaché
Paul Herring, SAIC, Drug Enforcement Administration
Adolph Saenz, Chief, Public Safety Advisor
Felipe Sandoval, Public Safety Advisor
Richard P. Raugi, Public Safety Advisor
Robert S. Cavanaugh, Public Safety Advisor
Rene Castillejo, Public Safety Technician

GOV Officials

Brig. Gen. Hernan Delgado Sanchez, Commander General,
Caracas Metropolitan Police
Dr. Manuel Molina Gasperi, Deputy Director, PTJ
Dr. Guillermo Rosquette, Secretary General, PTJ
Comisario Carlos Jimenez Lopez, Chief, Narcotics
Section, PTJ
Dr. Antonio Jose Figueroa Medina, Deputy Director,
PTJ National Academy
Dr. Alfredo Gonzalez Carrero, Chief, Toxicology
Division, PTJ
Dr. Juliette Chavigny de Budowski, Toxicology Division
PTJ
Brig.Gen. Lucio Cardenas, Commander General, National
Guard
Brig.Gen. Jose Olivo Flores, Director of Instruction,
National Guard
Brig. Gen. Jose Emilio Altuve Carrero, Director of
Personnel, National Guard
Dr. Otto Groskor, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Interior
Relations
Dr. Manuel Vicente Magallanes, Director of Policy,
Ministry of Interior Relations

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ATTACHMENT A

Others

Melvin J. Sowards, Chief of Security, Mene Grande
Oil Company

Ted Hogan, Chief of Security, Mobil Oil Company

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