

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 05578 182033Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /074 W

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R 181444Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3229

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 5578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: AD-OPPOSITION RELATIONS WORSEN

REF: CARACAS 5505, 5437 AND 5210

SUMMARY: LABOR MINISTER JOSE MANZO'S REMARKS MADE IN COLOMBIA THAT THE OPPOSITION WANTS TO MOUNT AN "ALLENDAZO" AGAINST THE PEREZ GOVERNMENT HAS SERVED ONLY TO HEIGHTEN TENSION BETWEEN ACCION DEMOCRATICA AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY COPEI. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MAY 15 REMARKS IN BARRANQUILLA MADE BY VENEZUELAN LABOR MINISTER JOSE MANZO THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HERE WANT TO CARRY OUT AN "ALLENDAZO" AGAINST PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD FURTHER EXACERBATED RELATIONS BETWEEN ACCION DEMOCRATICA AND THE THE OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY COPEI. THESE PARTIES HAVE BEEN GROWLING AT EACH OTHER EVER SINCE POLICE BROKE UP A COPEI WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION ON MAY 6 (CARACAS 5210). SCUFFLES BROKE OUT BETWEEN ADECOS AND COPEYANOS AT THE CARACAS CITY HALL ON MAY 14, THE DAY BEFORE MANZO DELIVERED HIS REMARKS IN COLOMBIA, CAUSING THAT DAY'S SESSION OF THE CARACAS CITY COUNCIL TO BE SUSPENDED.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 05578 182033Z

2. ON MAY 14 INTERIOR MINISTER LEPAGE TOLD THE PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS OF ALL THE VENEZUELAN STATES THAT THE VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PARTIES "SHOULD BE JUDICIOUS IN THEIR USE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY." HOWEVER, COPEI HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL DEMONSTRATE AGAIN IN THE PARQUE CARABOBO ON MAY 20.

3. REACTION HERE TO MANZO'S REMARKS WAS SHARP. INTERIOR MINISTER LEPAGE TOOK A LOT OF THE PUNCH OUT OF MANZO'S STATEMENT BY SAYING FLATLY ON MAY 15 THAT THERE IS NO SITUATION IN VENEZUELA SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH PRECEDED THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE, AND THAT THE COPEI DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT BE SO INTERPRETED. COPEI

PRESIDENTGODOFGEDO GONZALEZ CALLED MANZO'S STATEMENT "ABSURD AND INCONVENIENT" AND ASKED MANZO TO EXPLAIN JUST WHAT HE HAD MEANT. COPEI PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL LUIZ HERRERA CAMPINS SAID HE WAS "OPTIMISTIC THAT THE RECENT VIOLENT INCIDENTS WERE ONLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL." COPEI SENATOR JUAN JOSE RACHADELL CALLED MANZO'S CHARGE "NEGATIVE." MEP SECRETARY GENERAL JESUS PAZ GALARRAGA TEMRED MANZO'S COMPARISON OF THE PEREZ GOVERNMENT WITH ALLENDE'S "ABSURD". JESUS FARIA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST PARTY, SAID THERE COULD BE NO "ALLENDAZO" HERE SINCE CHANGES OCCUR ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST." COPEI'S EDUARDO FERNANDEZ SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN AD AND COPEI HAVE NEVER BEEN WORSE.

4. MANZO WAS DEFENDED BY AD DEPUTY CARLOS CANACHE MATA, WHO SAID COPEI IS "A DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH IS JUST A LITTLE DESPERATE." HE ADDED THAT, RESPECTING A POSSIBLE "ALLENDAZO," "THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO DO NOT LACK THE DESIRE FOR IT, BUT CONDITIONS DO NOT EXIST IN THE COUNTRY FOR THIS PHENOMENON TO BE PRODUCED."

5. THE MANZO CONTROVERSY SEEM ENDED WHEN BACK IN CARACAS ON MAY 17 MANZO DENIED EVER HAVING USED THE TERM "ALLENDAZO" TO DESCRIBE OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES AND CALLED THE TERM THE FIGMENT OF A REPORTER'S IMAGINATION.

6. COMMENT. WHATEVER MANZO'S REMARKS MAY HAVE BEEN ABOUT AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CARACA 05578 182033Z

"ALLENDAZO," THEY DECIDELY DID NOT HELP CALM THE EXISTING HIGH TENSIONS BETWEEN AD AND THE OPPOSITION. THE EFFECT OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER WHAT THE MINISTER SAID WAS DIMINISHED BY THE FACT THAT MANZO IS KNOWN HERE FOR A PROPENSITY TO OVERSTATEMENT.  
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