



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400

INFO MEMO

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FOR: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs
(Mr. Peter W. Rodman, (b)(6))

SUBJECT: STATE IG INVESTIGATION ON VENEZUELA

- Senator Dodd, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, SFRC, will request the Inspector General of the State Department to review U.S. involvement in the events preceding the attempted coup in Venezuela. - See attached
 - He is expected to announce the request to the media on Sunday.
- DoD's Inspector General, Mr. Joseph Schmitz, will facilitate any necessary contacts between his counterpart at State and officials at DoD.
 - We will of course cooperate fully with Mr. Schmitz, and will ensure that all pertinent facts and records are at his disposal.
- Yesterday the DASD-WHA met with Mr. Schmitz to brief him on what we know about the situation in Venezuela and OSD's contact with Venezuelan officials.
 - Mr. Pardo-Maurer had taken steps to prepare a report on the coup.
 - Mr. Schmitz told Mr. Pardo-Maurer to keep working on the report.
 - The report should be ready by May 15.
 - All information we have at this time confirms that all DoD personnel engaged with Venezuelan issues acted in a professional and proper manner. There is no indication that DoD personnel aided or encouraged improper, extraconstitutional, or unlawful actions in Venezuela. To the contrary, our opposition to such actions was explicit.
- We have prepared press guidance for Torie Clarke to describe DoD's cooperation with the State IG, should the question arise. (TAB A)

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

PRESS GUIDANCE

SUBJECT: State Dept. IG Investigation on Venezuela
MAY 10 2002

QUESTION: *Who is investigating US Government involvement in the events leading up to the coup in Venezuela?*

ANSWER: We understand that the Department of State Inspector General has been asked to review the events in Venezuela.

QUESTION: *What is DoD's role in this investigation?*

ANSWER: The Inspector General of the Department of Defense will facilitate any necessary contacts between his counterpart at State and officials at DoD. We will ensure that all pertinent facts and records are made available.

QUESTION: *Is DoD conducting its own investigation?*

ANSWER: No. We are reconstructing what occurred in Venezuela. Events on the ground occurred very rapidly so we want to make sure we have all the details.

QUESTION: *Were DoD personnel involved in the coup?*

ANSWER: No. There is no indication that DoD personnel aided or encouraged improper, unconstitutional, or unlawful actions in Venezuela. DoD policymaker contacts with Venezuelan officials, military and civilian alike, have left no room for doubt about our support for the democratic process and our explicit opposition to coups and unconstitutional actions.

Source:
Public Affairs AO:

DASD/WHA (b)(6)
MAJ (b)(6)



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

INFO MEMO

May 10, 2002, 10:00 AM

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Joseph E. Schmitz, Inspector General of the Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Coup d'etat Attempt in Venezuela

- In a letter that has not yet been publically released, Chairman Dodd of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, is requesting that the Inspector General of the Department of State (IG DoS) review U.S. Government involvement in events preceding the recent coup d'etat attempt in Venezuela. The IG DoS believes that Chairman Dodd will release the letter to the media on Sunday.
- As some of Chairman Dodd's questions relate to DoD personnel, the IG DoS has requested my office to assist in responding. The IG DoS plans to conduct interviews personally at DoD activities, which may include OUSDP, Joint Staff, SOUTHCOM, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, and DoD components of the U.S. Mission in Caracas.
- Executive Order 12805 of May 11, 1992, Integrity and Efficiency in Federal Programs, encouraged cooperation between Federal Inspectors General and enjoined them to "develop plans for coordinated, Governmentwide activities that . . . will include interagency and inter-entity audit and investigation programs and projects to deal efficiently and effectively with those problems concerning fraud and waste that exceed the capability or jurisdiction of an individual agency or entity."
- I intend to assist and to "oversee" the IG DoS in any necessary contact with DoD officials and will ensure that the DoD senior leadership is kept informed of the review's results.

COORDINATION: NONE

cc: Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
Director, Joint Staff
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)
General Counsel of the Department of Defense
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

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