



The Americas Report

From the Menges Hemispheric Security Project
Center for Security Policy

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The Americas Report is a continuation of the work of Dr. Constantine C. Menges' original America's Report. For almost two years that report chronicled the efforts of the Castro-Chavez axis and their allies in their efforts to undermine free nations and people throughout the Western Hemisphere. These efforts were in keeping with the theme of the July 1993 meeting of the Forum of São Paulo, which was founded in 1990 by Lula da Silva and Fidel Castro, "Our losses in Eastern Europe will be offset by our victories in Latin America."

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For any questions, comments, or those interested in receiving this report in the future or seeking to have their email removed from our list please contact **Nicole M. Ferrand** at our **new e-mail address: mengesproject@centerforsecuritypolicy.org**. If you have news stories that you think might be useful for future editions of this report please send them, with a link to the original website, to the same e-mail address. If you wish to contribute with an article, please send it to the same address, with your name and place of work or study.

Highlighted Story – [Operation 'Terapaima' and the Takeover of RCTV.](#) By Orlando Ochoa Teran.*

According to a document of the National Armed Forces of Venezuela (Fuerzas Armadas Nacionales or FAN) issued by the Minister of Defense of Venezuela, instructions were given to the military to confiscate the transmission equipment of RCTV. In a conflict scenario, military units would confront surprise attacks against military posts and acts of selective terrorism carried out by civilian organizations which the document refers to as 'the enemy.'

On May 17, 2007 the High Military Command of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Unified Command of the Armed Forces (Cufan), distributed a booklet titled: **'Order of Operations Terapaima 2007,'** to all the members of the national armed forces, including the Intelligence and logistic units. **The document describes in detail the military occupation of 42 RCTV transmission stations and the military preparations to confront a hypothetical violent resistance that could potentially destabilize Venezuela, a scenario similar to what happened on April 11, 2002."**

The Public wasn't aware of what was going on, but the **national military deployment against a private corporation to confiscate its transmission equipment, has no parallel in Latin America.** This is no exaggeration. The ample geographic distribution of the TV transmission stations forced the armed forces to organize a massive mobilization without precedent.



RCTV covered remote territories such as the station in the western part of the country in Tucupita (Latitude 09°03'15" – Longitude 62°04'19"). From that point it extends throughout a series of transmission stations up to Puerto Concha in the eastern part of Venezuela (Latitude 09°03'16" – Longitude 71°44'11") in the state of Zulia.

From the North, the RCTV stations follow a chain of transmission towers that start at Punta de Mulatos in Vargas (Latitude 10°36'16" – Longitude 66°54'44"), passes through the Ávila until it reaches the southeast in the state of Apure and the southeast in the State of Bolívar. As we shall see, what in another autocracy or dictatorship would be considered as an arbitrary administrative act, in the Bolivarian revolution it becomes an arbitrary and shameful military action.

The Strategic Plan

The 'Order of Operations Terapaima 2007,' is so detailed and meticulous in its plan to take over the transmission towers of RCTV, that it is not difficult to imagine that some of the more fanatic members of the Highest Ranks of the armed forces felt like they were carrying out a modern version of the Battle of Stalingrad or a new Overlord Operation (Invasion of Normandy).

Point (a) of the Strategic Plan is entitled "Situation," is just a repetition of the government's version that says that the radioelectric spectrum belongs to the Republic of Venezuela according to the law and that RCTV requires a governmental concession to operate. According to this argument, from March 28 2007 on, the government would have control of RCTV's radioelectric space that, at the time, had been granted in concession to the 1BC Group through 'Radio Caracas Televisión.'

Clause 5 of the document states: **"This operation is military in nature so the participation of the Armed Forces must be in accordance to the law. In clause number 10 the order that "Every document that is produced in relation with the 'Order of Operations Terapaima 2007, will be classified as "secret.""**

In accordance with this instruction, there is an ‘attachment of intelligence’ designed to be distributed to all the units of FAN. The annex states that **“Enemy Forces”** are conformed by the following political groups and NGO’s : Grupo 1BC, AD, COPEI, ABP, PI, VP, Causa Radical, Proyecto Venezuela, MAS, URD, UPV, Democracia siglo XXI Cofavic, Alianza Cívica, Red de Veedores, Liderazgo y Visión, Ciudadanía Activa, Clase Media en Positivo among others.

Other **international “Enemies”** include the United Nations Development Program, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American commission of Human Rights, the Latin American Parliament, the European Parliament and the Inter-American Press Association (SIP).

In section C of the ‘Order of Operations Terapaima 2007,’ the “Enemy Forces” mentioned above will be opposed by “Friendly Forces.” These friendly forces are the army, the navy, the air force, the National Guard, the Minister of Telecommunications, the Attorney General and by State Security Organisms.

Conflict Hypothesis

According to the ‘hypothesis’ analyzed in the document, subversive groups, members of **the opposition labeled as ‘terrorists’, or the ENEMIES, will create “scenarios of insecurity and destabilization** to prevent the execution of the administrative orders of the no renovation of the concession of RCTV” using “violent tactics against the stability of the nation to prevent the normal functioning of basic and strategic enterprises, and obstruct the lives of governmental, military, clerical and diplomatic authorities.”

These groups “through ideology and/or economic compensation,” could co-opt and convince some active or retired members of the FAN to denounce the politics of the Venezuelan state” with the support of “dissident national armed forces with the help of international agents, so that they, in unison, will engage in violent acts at a national level with the purpose of forcing the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela out of office.”

According to these “hypothesis,” the FAN expected “sudden attacks against military, police and private security posts, followed by acts of selective terrorism and violence to destabilize the internal order.”

The rest of the document refers to a **“BATTLE PLAN”** with details of the procedures that would be used to confront “the war efforts” of the enemy. To achieve this, **the government would secure the “essential elements of information, surveillance and observation missions,** measures for the handling of documents, of confiscated materials and **observation of detained personnel.** Other actions include the management of letters and photographs, as well as a list with **information of the addresses of the “enemies”**, the location of the transmission stations, all part of the strategy of the ‘Order of Operations Terapaima 2007.’

Warning

We, as Venezuelans, could not prove that any of these hypothesis of “sudden attacks against military posts” or “acts of selective terrorism” described by the

members of FAN ever materialized. The armed forces, fortunately, only clashed, on the morning of May 28, with the technicians of RCTV, solitary witnesses of one of the most extravagant military operations in the history of the Armed Forces of Venezuela.

The military definition of “enemy” is: “people or countries that are antagonistic to one another in a war.” Sadly, the FAN has succumbed to the absurd political game of “total war.” The Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense, Raúl Baduel, who signed the document together with General Wilfredo Silva, Commander of Cufan, **must explain under which judicial principles, the government decides to call millions of Venezuelans “enemies,” placing them as military targets that, according to the universal doctrine of war, should be eliminated.** Likewise the commander in chief must explain why his orders do not contradict the mission of the national armed forces, as established in the Constitution of 1999, which is still in force.

In any case we should ask ourselves the following question: What can the future hold for a country whose government and national armed forces admit as legitimate and patriotic, the collaboration of soldiers and foreign agents while, at the same time, labeling millions of civilian Venezuelans as enemies whose only ‘crime’ is believing that the best way to oppose this imposed socialist model is by using democratic means?

** Orlando Ochoa Teran is an expert in the subject of intelligence and a journalist for the Magazine “Quinto Día.”*

News Stories –The following are a summary of several news stories found in different media outlets. To access the information, the hyperlink is below each news story.

[Peru: government accuses Chavez of trying to destabilize the country](#)– *El Comercio, Peru.*

Peru accused Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday (July 06) of interfering in its country's internal affairs. Peruvian Prime Minister Jorge del Castillo also accuses Chavez of financing the massive protests in Puno. Relations between the two South American neighbors have been rocky since last year when Chavez stormed out of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) trade bloc in protest of U.S. free-trade deals signed by Peru and Colombia. **Del Castillo said Chavez is trying to pressure Peru into joining an alliance with Venezuela, Cuba and Bolivia called the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA),** which Chavez bills as an alternative to U.S. free trade agreements. **ALBA is opening an office in the Peruvian city of Puno.** "ALBA is an organization made up of four countries. I don't think they can make an NGO to work here. I don't think that it's ethical. If they present it formally the foreign relations department would have to make a decision. I don't think they could just come in here tomorrow and say we are going to open an office here in Peru," de Castillo said. **A local hospital run by Cuban doctors and paid for by Venezuela is also under construction in Puno. Venezuela was given full authority by Puno's local authorities for the new ventures and Del Castillo said Chavez was trying to create instability.** Chavez has been trying to increase Venezuela's political influence by offering favorable credit deals and swapping oil for agricultural exporters to poor countries.



Peruvian Prime Minister Jorge del Castillo. Source: AgenciaPeru.

<http://www.elcomercio.com.pe/EdicionOnline/HTML/olEcPortada/2007-06-30/olEcPortada0412766.html>

The US might ratify FTA with Perú in September – Bloomberg.

President George W. Bush urged Congress to ratify a free-trade agreement with Peru as his top trade official said Democrats are making unprecedented demands that may delay the deal for months. "I'd like to see the Peruvian deal done by the beginning of August," Bush told a conference in Arlington, Virginia, today. "We can send a clear signal to our neighborhood that we want you to be prosperous, that we want to help you realize your potential." Democrats say Peru and Panama, which negotiated free-trade agreements with the Bush administration, must strengthen their labor and environmental laws before Congress will vote on those accords.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aqMO9ImC1bMI&refer=latin_america

Strikes take Peru by Storm– Living in Peru.

Teachers from all over Peru have taken part in Peru's Teacher's Union (SUTEP) strike. There have been acts of violence, people detained and property destroyed, all due to teacher's opposition to an education reform being reviewed and close to being approved by congress. Teachers debate that the reform was not discussed with representatives and is being imposed on them, therefore violating their rights. Other reasons for teachers' opposition is an amendment to the reform which calls for the constant evaluations of teachers. If teachers were to fail the assessment three times they could find themselves without a job. In Junin, teachers, members of SUTEP, have taken hold of the building which belongs to the Regional Education Directorate. Since early this morning protestors have been on the roof of the building, showing no signs or intentions of leaving the premises. Peru's police have attempted to force teachers off the property, with tear gas, but have had no luck. Rocks have been thrown, tires are being burned and the streets around the building have been closed off. This is the scene in several of Peru's major cities. In Tumbes, again Police tried to control masses of protestors with tear gas but only achieved to get banks and restaurants to close their establishments. Some children had to be taken to hospitals due to the amount of gas in the air. **Protests continue in Huaraz, Cerro de Pasco and Puno, being the site of a mass of 12,000 protestors who have established themselves in the main plaza.** Food is being prepared, in the plaza, and given to all who participate. In Andahuaylas teachers have said that they will celebrate teacher's day, tomorrow, with another battle.

<http://www.livinginperu.com/news-4204-education-peru-sutep-strike-takes-peru-storm>

The White House hosts Conference on the Americas (full story) – The Miami Herald.

The White House rolled out the red carpet and its biggest names Monday to tell the world that it really does care about Latin America and that it's doing more for the region than most people believe. President Bush and no fewer than five Cabinet secretaries touted U.S. initiatives before a group of 150 Latin American community groups and 70 U.S.-based organizations, many flown in at U.S. taxpayer expense. At a luncheon speech, Laura Bush announced that the United States would work with Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil to combat breast cancer in the Americas. But more than big announcements, **the White House Conference on the Americas was an exercise in public relations and regional networking.** "It's important for us -- for me to explain to our fellow citizens some

of the work we're doing in the neighborhood," the president told his audience. This was the first time in recent memory that a president hosted a regional conference of this kind, though in the past the White House has done events on themes like malaria and literacy with activists and nongovernmental organizations.

The administration often complains that many of its programs go unnoticed in the region while relatively modest Cuban medical programs or Venezuelan soft loans for oil purchases get big headlines in local media. **Officials often note that Washington provides more than \$1.5 billion a year in aid to the region.**

The message Monday was that this was about more than money. Mega-corporations like Coca-Cola and Microsoft have programs to help the region, and Bush touted the ongoing swing through Latin America by the U.S. Navy medical ship, the Comfort, to carry out thousands of medical procedures. The administration, Bush said, is setting up a nurse's training center in Panama. Bush moderated the opening panel, with six activists taking the stage. In an exchange with Vivian Alegría, with the Coca-Cola Foundation in Mexico, Bush said he wanted U.S. companies to do more social work in Latin America. "It will not only help your business, it will help your country." He chatted with a Brazilian education activist and a specialist in infectious diseases who had returned to her native Haiti to combat HIV/AIDS. Bush plugged several of his regional initiatives, like a **biofuels cooperation** initiative and a multibillion dollar program to **combat HIV/AIDS**.

"I'm not bragging," Bush said. "I'm just telling the American taxpayer that through your hard work and your tax dollars, we're helping programs . . . that are saving lives." After Bush mingled in the crowd, shaking hands and posing for photos, many in the audience, whose views were framed by the Iraq war, seemed intrigued by the president's more relaxed ways. "I could observe a more human side of Bush," said Alma Rosa González, who heads CCMPAZ, a Mexican organization pushing for women's rights. "I probably should have embraced him instead of just shaken his hand." Karen Hughes, the undersecretary of state for public diplomacy, said the idea of the conference came up last year, after she reported back to Bush from a Latin America trip in March 2006 that many in the region were only vaguely, if at all, aware of U.S. actions in the region.



George W. Bush. Source: The White House.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/579/story/165629.html>

Ecuador: Correa accuses Lawmakers of Corruption – *El Diario Exterior, Madrid.*

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa asked the country's top prosecutor late on Monday to probe 18 lawmakers he accused of demanding favors in exchange for votes, heightening tensions with Congress. Last week, Congress overwhelmingly rejected changes Correa proposed to a bill that aimed to increase the powers of a government-controlled banking regulatory board. Correa, a leftist former economy minister, said several lawmakers asked his government for state jobs in exchange for votes and others were bribed by bankers to oppose his amendments. The government gave the prosecutor a secret tape of

a conversation with one lawmaker. The prosecutor has no deadline to carry out the investigation. The lawmakers denied Correa's charges.



Rafael Correa. Source: El Diario Exterior.

<http://www.eldiarioexterior.com/noticia.asp?idarticulo=15236>

Correa says Congress should be dissolved – Reuters.

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa said on Saturday he has changed his mind and wants the widely unpopular Congress to be dissolved by an assembly with powers to rewrite the volatile nation's constitution. Correa, a leftist ally of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, had previously said he did not favor the dismissal of Congress, even as most Ecuadorians blame it for helping oust three presidents in a decade. Since he took office in January, Correa has maneuvered to control Congress, but lawmakers have watered down or rejected some of the government's key legislation. "Given the quality of this Congress ... I think the assembly will have to dissolve it," Correa said during his weekly radio broadcast. "With this kind of Congress you can't do anything." Opposition politicians and Correa's party supporters are preparing for the Sept. 30 election that will choose the 130-members of the constitutional assembly. Correa has said the assembly is needed to put an end to political instability and slash the influence of traditional parties in the judiciary and state-run companies.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN2319600820070623>

Correa Starts European Tour – Prensa Latina.

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa begins on Tuesday his first official tour of Europe, where the situation of immigrants from Ecuador will be a priority issue to be analyzed with his hosts. Correa has planned to meet the Spanish head of government Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and the King and queen Juan Carlos and Sofia, also with the purpose of strengthening the bilateral relations. According to a presidential note, the South American country's president will visit Barcelona on July 12 and Valencia the following day, to talk and fraternize in both occasions with Ecuadorian residents there. The Ecuadorian head of State will travel to Milan, Italy, on July 14, to hold several meetings with immigrants from his country.

<http://www.plenglish.com/Article.asp?ID={ACC288FB-857E-4727-BF44-53A674CD434D}&language=EN>

Venezuela: Chávez threatens Globovisión – Diario Expreso, Perú.

Closing down Venezuela's last remaining opposition television station would be "the beginning of the end" of President Hugo Chavez's rule, the channel's head said in comments published here Monday. "It would be the beginning of the end because it would close the escape valve available to Venezuelans. Globovisión is the only media where the opposition can take a stand," station director Alberto Ravell told conservative daily Spanish newspaper ABC. Ravell said the broadcaster was the only station in Venezuela whose "editorial line is not set by the government." Last month Chavez refused to renew the broadcast license of Radio Caracas Television (RCTV), which expired on May 27, on grounds the network was conspiring to overthrow him. Venezuela's Communications Minister Willian Lara has since accused Globovisión of inciting attempts to assassinate Chavez, citing as proof its airing of footage of the 1981 assassination attempt on former pope John Paul II accompanied by a salsa song whose lyrics included the line "have faith."

http://www.expreso.com.pe/edicion/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5460&Itemid=36

Venezuela Exports Tractors to Bolivia and Nicaragua – *Prensa Latina*.

Veniran, a Venezuelan-Iranian joint venture, is producing 20 tractors a day, and started its export operations to Bolivia and Nicaragua, said Noel Zakur, director of the joint venture Monday. The plant installed in Ciudad Bolivar, 372.8 miles southeast of Caracas, has already sent 75 tractors to Bolivia and expects to deliver another 150 to Nicaragua. Zakur told local Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias (ABN) the possibility to export the tractors built two years ago to Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Zakur said the tractors have guaranteed spare parts and 18 percent of national components, a proportion that should get to 70 percent in three years, and 100 percent for 2010. The plant recently opened a line for agricultural instruments and equipments, such as trucks, ploughing machines and others.

<http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7BE7519520-FA18-4349-B010-271F56BFF27A%7D&language=EN>

Venezuelan RCTV may air on cable or satellite – *El Diario Exterior, Madrid*.

RCTV off the air by President Hugo Chavez is considering taking its programming to cable, the channel's top executive said. "I hope that this month we have news about coming out through other paths," he said. Another station highly critical of the government, Globovisión, has begun broadcasting some of RCTV's newscasts. "The government has done everything within its power ... to keep us from going on the air," Granier said. Granier also said RCTV will ask prosecutors to investigate the circumstances surrounding a Supreme Court decision that ordered the temporary seizure of the station's transmitting equipment. He has called it state-sanctioned "theft." "We know that the absence of the rule of law makes it nearly impossible to receive justice in Venezuela. However, we will make the complaint ... and later take that complaint before international courts," Granier said.

<http://www.eldiarioexterior.com/noticia.asp?idarticulo=15230>

Top US Officials in Uruguay – *Prensa Latina*.

US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns and Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon arrived in this capital Tuesday from Chile. The aim of both officials' two-day visit is to meet with President Tabaré Vazquez and Foreign Minister Reinaldo Gargano. The two countries are negotiating a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement termed by experts as the preface to a bilateral Free Trade Agreement, against the will of other MERCOSUR members. According to observers, other issues to analyze include ethanol, as part of US President George W. Bush's desire to turn South America into bio-fuel supplier of his country. Burns and Shannon's visit precedes that of Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, an expert on international economy, who will arrive in Montevideo Thursday.

<http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID={4F9A7EB6-1636-427D-B00F-9F5DF2736B9B}&language=EN>

Bolivia, Miners-Government Dialogue Off – *Prensa Latina*.

Representatives of the striking miners of the southern locality of Huanuni, Bolivia, unilaterally ended the dialogue with a special government commission and threatened to march to the capital. Questioned about their decision, Minister of the Presidency Juan Ramon Quintana lamented the political stance of some leaders of the sector and said the government will insist on the talks as a way out of conflict. The miners presented a list of 13 demands, 90 percent of which have been met by the Executive, he said. For his part, Government Minister Alfredo Rada warned that police will prevent the workers from reaching La Paz carrying explosives, which they use as a symbol in mass demonstrations. Other labor unions, including the CSUTCB (farmers) and the FNMCB-BS (women farmers) called on Huanuni miners to respect the reversion of the Posokoni natural resources to benefit the Bolivian people. They issued a joint news release also calling on

miners to talk and refrain from inflexible attitudes that harm and cause losses in the country, pointing out it is detrimental to mix politics at Posokoni, the richest tin field in the Andean nation, recovered in October to benefit all Bolivians.

[http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7B02D9262F-550D-4436-BDB8-50A4B6776FBA%7D\)&language=EN](http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7B02D9262F-550D-4436-BDB8-50A4B6776FBA%7D)&language=EN)

Operation Miracle treats 100,000 patients in Bolivia – Prensa Latina.

Some 100,000 people have so far recovered sight in Bolivia, thanks to the Operation Miracle, a free eye surgery program started with Cuba's support last year. This was highlighted by President Evo Morales in the opening ceremony of the fifth integral diagnostic hospital in the locality of Aiquile, central department of Cochabamba. In the act, Morales talked of the unconditional support by the Cuban people and President Fidel Castro, who have done everything possible for his country to have professionals and top-technology equipment in 25 of 40 second-level hospitals committed until the end of the year. The Operation Miracle has also benefited low-income Argentinean, Peruvian and Brazilian patients who traveled to ophthalmologic centers located in bordering localities to undergo those operations.

[http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7BE82D05D8-DA2A-4B18-8C8F-FC847322644A%7D\)&language=EN](http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7BE82D05D8-DA2A-4B18-8C8F-FC847322644A%7D)&language=EN)

Bolivia: Selling \$100M in Bonds to Venezuela – Stratfor.

Venezuela will finalize an operation to purchase \$100 million in Bolivian bonds before the end of July, Venezuelan Finance Minister Rodrigo Cabezas said in comments reported by Efe news July 10. Bolivia plans to use the \$100 million to alleviate damages caused by El Nino, make investments in recently nationalized mining companies and repurchase the country's only two oil refineries from Brazilian state oil company Petroleo Brasileiro.

http://www.stratfor.com/products/premium/read_article.php?selected=Situation%20Reports&sitrep=1&id=292009

Colombia: Uribe leads protest against kidnappings – Bloomberg.

Colombians by the millions, outraged over guerrilla violence, marched in cities across the nation to demand drug-funded rebels free hostages and return the bodies of 11 kidnapped lawmakers slain in captivity last month. Dressed in white and waving white handkerchiefs, protesters honked car horns and threw paper from offices after President Alvaro Uribe called on citizens to press the biggest rebel group to release 3,143 prisoners held in jungle camps. El Tiempo, the country's biggest newspaper, put a special cover on today's edition with a graphic of chains and the words "Free Them." "Today we will go to the streets, in a sign of strength against terrorism and of solidarity with the families of the victims," Uribe, who marched through Plaza Bolivar in downtown Bogotá, said in a statement posted on the presidential Web site. The 55-year-old president wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan "Freedom without Conditions, Now!" The protest was sparked by murder of 11 lawmakers held hostage by the FARC on June 18, just weeks after Uribe freed dozens of captured guerrillas, including the highest ranking jailed rebel leader Rodrigo Granda, in a bid to clinch an exchange of prisoners.



The protesters demanded the release of Farc hostages. Source: AFP.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aEWRFipQpnFA&refer=latin_america

Criminals kill mayor of western Colombian town –

The mayor of the western Colombian town of San Jose del Palmar, Blanca Ines Marin, was gunned down by unknown assailants, officials told Efe. A police spokesman said the official was intercepted Friday by a group of armed men while riding in an SUV on a highway linking the western provinces of Valle del Cauca and Choco. The assailants forced her out of the vehicle, made her lie face down on the ground and shot her several times. Afterwards, the gunmen rolled the mayor's SUV off a cliff and fled, according to spokespersons with the Valle del Cauca provincial police force, which has jurisdiction over San Jose del Palmar. Marin, 38, was traveling with an engineer and her driver, who were unharmed in the attack and were witnesses to the murder. Authorities have not yet identified any criminal organization as responsible for the homicide. Police and army patrols were deployed to the area to pursue the assailants, who fled into a mountainous area.



President Alvaro Uribe. Source: El Diario Exterior.

<http://www.eldiarioexterior.com/noticia.asp?idarticulo=15224>

Lula resumes nuclear program. Brazil to become 'world power' – Infobae, Argentina.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Tuesday re-launched the country's nuclear program, promising to complete a nuclear submarine and a third atomic power plant both mothballed 20 years ago. "Brazil could rank among those few nations in the world with a command of uranium enrichment technology, and I think we will be more highly valued as a nation -- as the power we wish to be," Lula said at the navy's Technological Centre in Sao Paulo. "If money was lacking, it won't be lacking now," Lula said. Finishing the nuclear submarine would cost an estimated 68 million dollars over eight years, he said. "And who knows, with a little more (money), we may build it sooner, because it is running late," Lula said, 20 years after the project was abandoned. **He also confirmed the government would complete the Angra III nuclear plant in Rio de Janeiro state, after the National Committee on Energy Policy approved the project two weeks ago.** "We will complete Angra III, and if necessary, we'll go on to build more (nuclear plants) because it is clean energy and now proven to be safe," Lula said. The plant will cost 3.5 billion dollars over five and a half years, he said.



Lula Da Silva. Source: Infobae.

<http://www.infobae.com/contenidos/326024-100891-0-Brasil-comienza-su-camino-el-plan-nuclear>

Guerrilla group claims responsibility for Mexico pipeline explosions (Pemex)– AP.

A communiqué in the name of a small, leftist rebel group claimed responsibility Tuesday for explosions at Mexican gas pipelines, saying the guerrillas had planted explosives. There was no immediate confirmation of the claim from authorities, who said they were still investigating the causes of the blasts. A

statement signed by the "military zone command of the People's Revolutionary Army" — a tiny group that has largely been inactive in recent years — said it had caused the blasts and demanded the release of two men it identified as political prisoners. There was no independent confirmation of the authenticity of the guerrilla statement, which was posted on a Web site that collects such bulletins from armed groups, and the state-owned oil company Pemex said it was too early to determine whether the blasts were caused by explosive devices. "We inform our people that the actions of harassment will not stop" until the government releases the men, according to the statement dated Tuesday. Tuesday's explosion forced the evacuation of communities around the town of Coroneo, near the central city of Queretaro, but caused no injuries or damage outside of the pipeline's installations, Pemex said in statement. Service was suspended on the 36-inch pipeline that runs between Mexico City and Guadalajara. On July 5, two explosions at another Pemex pipeline in the nearby state of Guanajuato state forced evacuations but caused no injuries. The EPR staged several armed attacks on government and police installations in southern Mexico in the 1990s, but has been weakened by internal divisions and splinter groups in recent years.

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