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预防武装冲突安全理事会
第七十五年2020 年 5 月 13 日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和
安全理事会主席的同文信

谨此告知，2020 年 5 月 3 日至 4 日，由哥伦比亚共和国政府和美利坚合众国政府组织、训练、资助和保护并由雇佣兵和恐怖分子组成的武装团体非法进入了委内瑞拉领土，其既定目标是对我国人民实施犯罪行为，定点刺杀我国政府高级官员，最终在暗杀尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统并摧毁我们独立主权国家的自由和权利制度之后，扶植一个我国历史上从未有过的殖民掠夺暴力政权。

进入我国领土的罪犯来自哥伦比亚。其中一支突击队在我国一主要机场所在的拉瓜伊拉州着陆，此地距离委内瑞拉首都仅 20 公里。但雇佣兵和恐怖分子所称的“吉迪恩行动”却被委内瑞拉当局挫败。袭击者渗透地区的邻近社区与执法当局协调行动，抓获了这群雇佣兵和恐怖分子中的大多数人。在此之前还发现过两艘船，船上至少有 60 名罪犯，携带大量高口径致命武器前来执行计划。

总检察长办公室确认迄今已逮捕 47 人，另有同样多的人因参与这一旨在使我国充斥暴力和痛苦的行动而收到逮捕令。这是在严重局势下实施的危害人类罪，因为他们将 100 年来最严重的影响全人类的致命疫情当作了军事优势。利用我国当局因这一非同寻常的人道主义局势而不得不全力保护国民生命之机作乱，这就是恐怖主义。

此外，委内瑞拉政府当局在本国南部地区搜捕雇佣兵和恐怖分子的过程中，又发现了一批军用武器。因此，我们必须报告，2020 年 5 月 9 日，在玻利瓦州奥里诺科河岸边发现了 3 艘哥伦比亚海军的军用快艇，每艘快艇都配备了 2 挺 50



口径机枪和 4 挺 M60 机枪。¹ 所有武器都配备了数千发弹药：足以支撑一次大规模武装袭击(见附件一)。追踪和抓捕这些船上船员的行动正在如火如荼地进行，因为我们知道还有另外一伙雇佣兵和恐怖分子；在这起案件中，正如美国公民乔丹·古德罗在行动开始当天发布的一段视频中宣称的，这伙人的任务是袭击南部边境。^{2、3}

委内瑞拉反对派暴力分子首领胡安·瓜伊多议员与美国公民乔丹·古德罗于 2019 年 10 月 16 日签署的一份合约曝光后，国际媒体如今已证实了委内瑞拉反对派极端分子的参与。⁴ 古德罗甚至出具了他是唐纳德·特朗普总统个人安保人员的证据，他曾是美国陆军特种部队成员，目前是私人安保承包商美国希尔威公司(Silvercorp USA)的首席执行官，该公司受托策划、训练、装备和执行针对委内瑞拉人民的雇佣兵入侵行动。为此，两人商定，胡安·瓜伊多议员将使用美国政府从我国窃取并已存入美国银行账户中的钱，向美国希尔威公司支付 2.129 亿美元。还必须强调的是，一旦犯罪行为实施完毕，就用我国的石油确立更多形式的支付(见附件二和三)。⁵

该合约自签署之日起 495 天内有效，宣称其目的是通过“消灭”尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统和打击“前政权”残余势力的行动，“使委内瑞拉现政权下台/被推翻，使获得承认的委内瑞拉政府上台/建立”，将胡安·瓜伊多议员“送上”委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国总统的宝座。

该协议还提到存在私人融资，即通过资本主义企业家捐款得到的“过桥贷款”，一旦新政府成立，这些企业家作为初始“投资者”将享有获得委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国合约的优先权。据国际媒体报道，一群在委内瑞拉拥有权益的美国大富豪讨论了他们对该行动的出资问题。美国公民罗恩·克拉夫特就是其中之一，他是一家著名跨国食品生产公司的继承人。⁶ 他们都渴望如销售合同所述，从自己对该行动财政资金的出资中获得至少 55% 的初始利润。

该协议本身就是违反无数准则的明确、正式体现，它不仅违反《委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国宪法》，而且违反国际法和我国签署的多项公约和条约。因此，这是一项毫无任何法律或道德考量、用于对生命和财产实施大规模暴力的协议。该合约甚至规定使用“一切可用来完成指定任务的必要手段”，以及使用各类常规武

¹ 纬度坐标 06°13'30"；经度坐标 67°25'13"。这些船的缩写是 ARC-1823、ARC-1160 和 ARC-1162。型号是波士顿惠勒；50 口径机枪序列号：301575 及 334472；M60 机枪序列号：90824、91788、89270 和 91246。

² 见 www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=18&v=c-ZBsNbh1tM&feature=emb_logo。

³ 见 <http://archive.vn/aDH9o>。

⁴ 见 www.youtube.com/watch?v=i02ml21z0Sk。

⁵ 附件三可通过以下链接查看：www.washingtonpost.com/context/read-the-attachments-to-the-general-services-agreement-between-the-venezuelan-opposition-and-silvercorp/e67f401f-8730-4f66-af53-6a9549b88f94/。

⁶ 见 <https://thedailyusnews.com/venezuela-claims-to-have-captured-two-american-mercenaries-involved-in-failed-invasion/>。

器，同时免除美国希尔威公司的雇佣兵和恐怖分子对其犯罪后果的任何责任。向凶手提供事先绝对豁免权的大规模谋杀合约真是闻所未闻。

该合约中的恐怖主义并不仅仅针对委内瑞拉的国家高级官员，因为它还针对平民进行那些被认为在合约存续期内对控制权力至关重要的清洗行动。合约规定对民乱使用致命武力以及国际公约和条约禁止的武器，例如杀伤人员地雷，以及包括化学武器在内的各种有机和非有机武器。可以说，该合约赋予了美国一家私营公司控制委内瑞拉 3 000 万民众生死、自由、权利和财产的权力。

请允许我告知你，在作案现场被羁押的雇佣兵和恐怖分子中，有 2 名美国公民，他们曾是美国陆军特种部队成员，经确认为卢克·登曼和艾兰·贝里。两人都与唐纳德·特朗普总统的个人安保人员乔丹·古德罗有关。乔丹·古德罗以美国希尔威公司首席执行官的身份签署了上述犯罪合约，并于 2020 年 5 月 3 日与委内瑞拉公民、委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔国民警卫队上尉(已退役)哈维尔·涅托·昆特罗一同在国际媒体上公开露面，宣称自己是“吉迪恩行动”的负责人。

已被公共检察官办公室带上法庭的被羁押美国雇佣兵和恐怖分子承认了他们在这次行动中扮演的角色，并说他们的主要任务是：(a) 暗杀尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统；(b) 控制委内瑞拉的两个主要机场；(c) 保障外国飞机在委内瑞拉领土降落；(d) 袭击委内瑞拉军事反情报总局和玻利瓦尔国家情报局。他们还说，准备武装袭击我国和我国人民的训练和后勤基地设在哥伦比亚，军事侵略开始时他们已经离开该国。⁷

也有公开媒体信息证实，美国公民乔丹·古德罗事确实在各种政治活动中向唐纳德·特朗普总统提供过个人安保服务，至少在 2018 年期间是如此，从他自己发布在社交网络上的照片即可看出这一点(见附件四)。同样，乔丹·古德罗在 2020 年 5 月 3 日之前经常向美国公民基思·席勒⁸ 通报他的计划和行动。席勒先生至今已向唐纳德·特朗普总统提供了超过 16 年的个人安保；作为一名私营商人和美国安保公司 KS 全球集团的所有者，他现在为美国共和党的公共活动提供安保。⁹

此外，国际媒体报道说，美国政府的下列机构详细了解哥伦比亚境内正在为雇佣兵和恐怖分子袭击委内瑞拉所做的准备工作：国土安全部、中央情报局和缉毒局。¹⁰

我还要告知你，哥伦比亚境内用于训练这个雇佣兵和恐怖分子团体的设施属于哥伦比亚头号通缉毒贩埃尔金·哈维尔·洛佩斯(别名“双轮”)。¹¹ 这位呼风唤雨的贩毒网络头目拥有强大的政治关系，使他能够逃脱本国的司法审判；他向

⁷ 见 www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo2MsbnI9QA。

⁸ 见 www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/venezuela-raid-jordan-goudreau-cliver-alcala-maduro/2020/05/10/767c3386-9194-11ea-9322-a29e75effc93_story.html。

⁹ 见 www.cnn.com/2019/02/08/firm-owned-by-trumps-longtime-bodyguard-has-received-225000-from-mc.html。

¹⁰ 见 www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8296881/US-Government-DID-know-coup-Venezuela-plot-DEA-Homeland-Security-received-tip-Goudreau.html。

¹¹ 见 https://caracol.com.co/emisora/2020/05/07/santa_marta/1588874771_876584.html。

这一行动提供了支持，目的是一旦胡安·瓜伊多议长被美国希尔威公司推上台，他的卡特尔可以在委内瑞拉境内自由、畅通无阻地开展业务。

值得强调的是，这是胡安·瓜伊多议员与哥伦比亚贩毒集团有瓜葛的事情第二次被曝光。你可能还记得，第一次被曝光是在 2019 年 9 月 27 日，¹² 我国副总统向联合国大会通报了胡安·瓜伊多议员与哥伦比亚境内当今最残忍、最令人惧怕的刺客之一约翰·杰罗·杜兰·孔特雷拉斯¹³ 之间进行后勤协调一事，孔特雷拉斯是控制哥伦比亚北桑坦德地区的准军事贩毒集团“断株”(Los Rastrojos)的头目。

至少自 2018 年以来，我国政府就一直在谴责哥伦比亚政府赞助在该国境内组织和策划针对委内瑞拉高级官员的恐怖袭击。你可能还记得，2018 年 8 月 4 日，有人使用装满炸药的无人机对尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统实施了一次未遂暗杀。此次袭击是在哥伦比亚境内策划的，无人机操作员在哥伦比亚接受的培训，实施这一犯罪计划的设备和物资也是从哥伦比亚运进委内瑞拉的。¹⁴

值得一提的是，这次行动的出资人是奥斯曼·德尔加多·塔博斯基，尽管委内瑞拉事后及时提出了对他的引渡请求，以便将他交由委内瑞拉司法系统处置，就其罪行对他进行审判，但美国政府为他提供避风港，如今他就住在该国佛罗里达州。¹⁵ 2018 年这起恐怖袭击的制造者可以逍遥法外，想来是如此荒谬，以至于参与 2020 年 5 月 3 日犯罪行动的雇佣兵之一瑞德尔·亚历山大·鲁索(别名“皮科”)也参与过 2018 年暗杀尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统未遂的上述无人机袭击。此后，他被哥伦比亚政府保护了近两年，同时在该国为下一次行动接受训练。

这下一次袭击发生在 2019 年 2 月 23 日，当时哥伦比亚政府和美国政府打着执行所谓“人道主义行动”的旗号，组织、资助和领导了一次行动，目的是侵犯委内瑞拉主权，危害我国和该地区的和平与安全。他们随后鼓动了哥伦比亚-委内瑞拉边境上的多起暴力事件，为武装入侵我国找理由，这明显违反了《联合国宪章》和人道主义援助指导原则。该侵略行为迫使我国政府为保护我国的和平、安全与稳定，断绝了与哥伦比亚政府的外交和领事关系。我国政府于 2019 年 2 月 26 日向联合国安全理事会提交了这次侵略的证据(见 S/PV.8472)。

同样，我们在 2019 年 2 月 28 日(见 S/PV.8476)向安全理事会披露，哥伦比亚境内组建了一支雇佣军，由哥伦比亚政府和美国政府组织、资助、训练和保护，其成员包括玻利瓦尔国家武装部队的逃兵，其主要目的是攻击我国，并寻求通过武装手段推翻我国按照宪法民主选举产生的政府。我国副总统在 2019 年 9 月 27

¹² 见 <http://webtv.un.org/search/venezuela-vice-president-addresses-general-debate-74th-session/6090125317001/?term=&lan=english&cat=74th%20Session&page=11>。

¹³ 见 www.telesurenglish.net/news/Juan-Guaido-Entered-Colombia-With-Help-from-Paramilitaries-Drug-Cartels-20190912-0010.html。

¹⁴ 见 www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhuMy15rIVo。

¹⁵ 见 <http://mppre.gob.ve/2018/08/08/venezuela-solicita-a-eeuu-extradicion-de-cabecilla-del-atentado-contra-el-presidente-maduro/>。

日向大会发表讲话时再次批露了这一情况，她还在讲话中指出了这些雇佣兵和恐怖分子在哥伦比亚境内受训营地的精确坐标。¹²

由于该案件的严重性，我们通过适当的外交渠道进行了这一公开正式披露，对此，美国政府和哥伦比亚政府以众所周知的方式作了回应，即：无视指控，否认存在这些事件，同时加倍保护和支持准备攻击我国的雇佣兵和恐怖主义团体。

自今年 3 月初，即被美国政府定义为针对我国“极限施压的 3 月”¹⁶ 初以来，我国政府一直在警告和面对美国和哥伦比亚军队在拉瓜伊拉边境地区动员部队、装备和军事武器活动异常增多的情况，而将要参加最近这次武装入侵委内瑞拉的三个雇佣兵和恐怖分子训练营就设在拉瓜伊拉。

在此方面，我国当局设法挫败了几次武器和爆炸物从哥伦比亚非法进入委内瑞拉的企图，其中最值得一提的有两次：(a) 3 月 5 日，在卡拉沃沃州巴伦西亚机场截获大量军用武器，当时有人企图通过从波哥大起飞的一个航班走私这些武器；¹⁷ (b) 同样是在 3 月 5 日，在塔奇拉州对哥伦比亚准军事贩毒集团“断株”发动的一次安全行动中，缴获 650 公斤炸药，以及足够制造多达 2 000 枚自制炸弹的材料，并逮捕 37 人，¹⁸ 其中至少有 1 人是为发动后来被称为“吉迪恩行动”的武装袭击而正在哥伦比亚接受训练的团体成员。

雇佣兵和恐怖分子实施的这次行动与美国政府和哥伦比亚政府在今年整个 3 月份发表的声明和采取的军事行动有着直接的联系，这些声明和行动明确显示了即将对委内瑞拉发动武装袭击的意图(见附件五)。今天，在发动武装袭击这一阴谋的参与者的陈述曝光后，我国政府今年提出的指控得到了证实。

此外，曾在哥伦比亚训练雇佣兵和恐怖分子的美国海军前成员、在美国注册为“非营利性”组织的 Strong Hold 救援救济组织创始人兼行政总裁埃弗雷姆·马托斯声称，整个犯罪行为原计划在 3 月份实施，但他不知道为什么没在该月实施。¹⁹ 因此，事实清楚地表明，缴获的武器、被逮捕的恐怖分子、部队的调动、华盛顿和波哥大高级别发言人发表的煽动性言论以及 3 月份发生的其他敌对行动，实际上都指向这一犯罪计划的落实，只是由于未知的原因，该计划当时没有实施。

委内瑞拉逃犯克里贝尔·阿尔卡拉·科尔多内斯在 2020 年 3 月 26 日之前一直是该行动的指挥官，他曾几次向媒体透露在哥伦比亚境内接受训练的武装团体的目的。²⁰ 同一天，在哥伦比亚警方截获一批战争武器后，他甚至公开承认，这

¹⁶ 见 <https://publicpool.kinja.com/subject-background-press-call-by-senior-administration-1842181821/>。

¹⁷ 见 <https://mundo.sputniknews.com/america-latina/202003051090688474-la-fuerza-armada-venezolana-incauta-armas-de-guerra-en-un-avion-procedente-de-colombia/>。

¹⁸ 见 <https://albacidad.org/2020/03/detienen-37-miembros-de-los-rastros-y-les-incautan-650-kilos-de-explosivos/>。

¹⁹ 见 www.vox.com/2020/5/11/21249203/venezuela-coup-jordan-goudreau-maduro-guaido-explain。

²⁰ 见 www.wsj.com/articles/poorly-organized-and-barely-hidden-venezuela-invasion-was-doomed-to-fail-11589122800。

些武器是运往他的营地的，是用胡安·瓜伊多议员提供的委内瑞拉人民的资金根据与美国顾问签订的一份合约购买的。他当时表示，他一直保持联络的哥伦比亚国家情报局和美国安全机构都知道该计划。²¹

我们在 2020 年 4 月 3 日的信(见 [S/2020/277](#))中向安全理事会正式通报了公民克里贝尔·阿尔卡拉·科尔多内斯的恐怖主义阴谋。当时，该名罪犯已经在纽约市与美国安全机构合作了一周，后者详细了解针对我国的这一阴谋。与以往一样，唐纳德·特朗普总统领导的政府为了保护雇佣兵和恐怖分子，假装对这些准备工作一无所知。更糟糕的是，该行动继续进行而不受惩罚，再次证实哥伦比亚政府和美国政府合谋有系统地破坏委内瑞拉和整个地区的和平、安全与稳定。

毫无疑问，这两国的政府为准备和执行该犯罪行为提供了技术、后勤、财政和行动支持，并提供了所需的武器。此外，哥伦比亚政府提供避风港，为雇佣兵和恐怖分子在其境内自由行动提供便利，而美国政府则向他们提供卫星通信、地理定位数据、运输和出入境路线便利。

此外，应该指出，准备用于入侵我国的战争武器，由美国希尔威公司以超过 15 万美元购自注册于佛罗里达州的一家名为“高端防御解决方案”(High-End Defense Solutions)的美国公司。²² 必须回顾，根据美国的法律制度，任何向海外供应武器的公司都必须事先获得美国国务院的审批。²³ 波哥大政府和华盛顿政府显然是这一行动的同谋，且在行动中发挥了作用，因此，两国政府明显公然违反了安全理事会第 239(1967)号、第 1373(2001)号和第 1456(2003)号决议。

鉴于现有证据，很难想象这只是一个巧合，也很难想象没有人注意到相关武器从美国进入了哥伦比亚，或者国务院没有给予授权，特别是考虑到哥伦比亚警方还于 2020 年 3 月 23 日缴获了这批武器的一部分。²⁴ 然而，哥伦比亚当局决定不对这批缴获的武器进行调查，相反，还继续支持雇佣军和恐怖分子在哥伦比亚领土上驻留，支持他们准备对我国实施武装袭击，甚至还确保犯罪分子获得这些武器。

因此，我们对哥伦比亚政府和美国政府鼓励有罪不罚、拒绝调查这些恐怖主义袭击、拒绝逮捕在其本国境内活动的肇事者的做法深感关切。这种做法只会助长贩毒网络、政治暴力支持者和寻求对我国进一步发动武装袭击的国家安全机构之间的犯罪联盟。这股新的犯罪势力随时都可能引发不可控制的暴力局面，给整个地区的和平、安全与稳定带来可怕的后果。

在这方面，我们声讨并谴责美国政府向这起恐怖主义阴谋的组织者乔丹·古德罗和委内瑞拉公民贾维尔·涅托·金特罗提供保护，如今，这两人以美国为避风港，公开宣称对准备武装袭击我国负责，并称美国政府事先知道他们的所有行

²¹ 见 <https://apnews.com/79346b4e428676424c0e5669c80fc310>。

²² 同上。

²³ 见 <https://apnews.com/038e966350a9d7e8ec7a38341f0efecac>。

²⁴ 见 www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/incautan-armamento-de-guerra-entre-cienaga-y-barranquilla-476388。

动。²⁵ 我们要求美国当局迅速启动相关调查，以对这两人实施逮捕，并要求美国当局遵守和尊重自己的相关国际法律义务，包括与引渡或起诉原则相关的义务。

此外，我们不应忘记，2019 年 7 月，胡安·瓜伊多议员任命委内瑞拉逃犯伊万·西蒙诺维斯担任“委内瑞拉驻美国大使馆安全和情报事务特别专员”，以履行与包括缉毒局、中央情报局和美国国土安全部在内的美国各安全机构进行联络的职能。此人现居住于华盛顿特区，受美国政府保护。值得注意的是，伊万·西蒙诺维斯在 2020 年 2 月 5 日的一封信中公开请求唐纳德·特朗普总统加快采取措施，以终结尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统的任期。²⁶

正是在这种背景下，伊万·西蒙诺维斯于 2020 年 2 月 13 日在白宫与唐纳德·特朗普总统和国家安全委员会会面，讨论接下来针对马杜罗政权准备采取的措施。²⁷ 作为胡安·瓜伊多议员和唐纳德·特朗普总统之间的最高联络人，伊万·西蒙诺维斯充分掌握“吉迪恩行动”的所有细节，并与在哥伦比亚训练以对我国发动袭击的雇佣军和恐怖分子经常保持联系。因此，唐纳德·特朗普总统与胡安·瓜伊多议员之间存在协调的最明显证据就是伊万·西蒙诺维斯，今天，此人仍公开支持武装袭击计划及其所暗示的一切。^{28、29、30}

如你所知，美国政府一再表示，推翻尼古拉斯·马杜罗·莫罗斯总统的“所有选项都在考虑之列”。唐纳德·特朗普总统领导的政府煽动袭击我国国家元首和政府首脑、破坏我国人民和平，其中最明显的迹象之一就是，美国总检察长最近宣布悬赏措施，奖励犯罪分子侵犯我国政府国防部长和其他高级官员甚至是依职享有国际法豁免权的委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国总统的个人尊严和政治尊严。唐纳德·特朗普总统领导的政府胡作非为而不受惩罚，俨然是推动国际恐怖主义的流氓国家；该政府不负责任，违背国际法，其本身就是对委内瑞拉和平的主要威胁。

美国政府决心通过精心策划的残忍手段和更多的经济绞杀行为，对委内瑞拉人民实施“极限施压”政策，此举是令人发指的罪行，利用致命的大流行病，极度施加集体痛苦，同时还一再威胁使用军事力量。如今，美国政府将人道主义侵略和军事侵略与哥伦比亚境内的雇佣军和恐怖组织实施的秘密行动相结合，将其犯罪行为推向了更高的水平。众所周知，唐纳德·特朗普总统下令在与我国海岸接壤的加勒比海部署了超过 25 艘军舰，并下令动用美国后备役部队，以加强在委内瑞拉以北地区的行动；³¹ 后一项命令于 2020 年 4 月 30 日在本文所述犯罪行为开始之前的几个小时发布。

²⁵ 见 www.nytimes.com/2020/05/07/world/americas/venezuela-failed-overthrow.html。

²⁶ 见 <https://twitter.com/Simonovis/status/1225135812515377153>。

²⁷ 见 <https://presidenciave.com/embajadas/simonovis-se-reunio-con-trump-para-coordinar-medidas-a-favor-de-la-libertad-de-venezuela/>。

²⁸ 见 <https://twitter.com/Simonovis/status/1257147938737991681>。

²⁹ 见 <https://twitter.com/Simonovis/status/1257147940851912705>。

³⁰ 见 <https://twitter.com/Simonovis/status/1257635049245204490>。

³¹ 见 <https://es.panamapost.com/sabrina-martin/2020/04/30/trump-activa-reserva-militar-para-operacion-antinarcoticos-al-norte-de-venezuela/>。

更令人关切的是，今天，即 2020 年 5 月 13 日，尽管“吉迪恩行动”已彻底失败，但 4 艘美国军舰正带着明显的敌对意图向委内瑞拉海岸步步逼近，企图进一步加剧紧张局势。这并非第一次发生这种挑衅行为，在之前给安全理事会的信（见 S/2019/641、S/2019/765、S/2020/130 和 S/2020/277）中，我们就已报告了美国政府进行的这种动作和威胁使用军事力量的情况。

同样，必须回顾，4 月 29 日，美国国务卿迈克·蓬佩奥表示，美国政府正在加紧计划重启驻委内瑞拉大使馆，“以便马杜罗一下台，我们就可重启，我相信，我们将在加拉加斯再次升起美国国旗”。³² 同日，美国政府提醒所有在委美国公民在商业航班恢复运营之前在安全场所避难，³³ 以保护美国公民免遭当时正在我国酝酿的暴力。

在此次犯罪行为于 5 月 6 日失败之后，迈克·蓬佩奥国务卿宣称，“[美国]政府没有直接参与这一行动。如果我们有参与其中，事情就不是这样了。”他补充说，美国将用尽一切办法，将被羁押的美国公民接回家。他还表示，关于是谁资助了试图在委内瑞拉制造流血事件的这一行动，“我们知道发生了什么，但我们准备透露更多信息。我们会在适当时候将其公之于众。”³⁴

这些令人震惊的言论证实：(a) 美国政府参与了此次犯罪行为；(b) 美国政府知晓此次行动的详情，包括行动的资金来源；(c) 美国政府荒谬且非法地认为，它可以让所有美国公民，即便是那些在主权国家实施恐怖主义行为的美国公民，都有罪不罚，就因为它认为这些人可凌驾于全世界所有其他人之上。因此，唐纳德·特朗普总统不仅违反国际法，还推动永久违反国际法。他摒弃了作为国际社会成员国国家元首和政府首脑的职责，从而成为了世界上最强权、最危险的无赖总统。

美国是世界范围内战争的主要推手，也是最常使用雇佣军实施“政权更迭”行动以强加其殖民利益的国家。例如，仅在 2007 年至 2017 年期间，美国国防部就在雇佣军合同方面斥资约 2 500 亿美元。³⁵ 与此同时，在拉丁美洲和加勒比地区，唐纳德·特朗普总统正在借臭名昭著的门罗主义这种认为南美是美国的“后院”和自然支配区的 19 世纪至上主义观念，宣布他对美洲大陆的种族主义愿景。针对委内瑞拉实施的行动正是这种不合时宜、不人道的极端主义意识形态的表现。

通过使用雇佣军和非国家行为体，美国政府得以逃避《联合国宪章》第二条第四项、日内瓦四公约以及国际人道法和人权规范规定的责任。一国针对他国采取的任何武装行动，都必须得到安全理事会的授权，或必须遵守涉及各国固有自卫权利的《宪章》第五十一条的规定。正如对待委内瑞拉的情况一样，美国拒不承担责任，错误地认为这样就可以继续通过秘密暴力行动欺瞒世界。

³² 见 <https://twitter.com/WHAAstSecty/status/1255567873071874049>。

³³ 见 <https://twitter.com/usembassyve/status/1255563104672497668>。

³⁴ 见 www.state.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-at-a-press-availability-5/。

³⁵ 见 www.nextbigfuture.com/2017/07/us-spent-250-billion-on-contractors-from-2007-2017-andmay-adopt-blackwater-2-0-plan.html。

华盛顿的犯罪行径已有很多前科。1986 年，国际法院作出裁决，认定美国政府向反政府军(当时尼加拉瓜政府的武装反对派)提供资助、组织、培训、物资和装备，为其选择军事或准军事目标，策划其在尼加拉瓜的整个行动，包括实施违反人权和人道法的行为。³⁶ 同样在这起历史性案件中，国际法院坚决裁定，武装支持他国叛乱分子等同侵略，构成对东道国主权的武装攻击。在这方面，我们要记得，那次美国行动的策划者是埃利奥特·阿布拉姆斯，目前他被特意任命为美国委内瑞拉问题特别代表，意图对我国实施同样的犯罪政策。

大会和安全理事会均通过了多项决议，谴责使用雇佣军和恐怖分子干涉各国内政的行为。国际社会谴责雇佣军和恐怖分子袭击，因为这侵犯各国的领土完整、政治统一、主权和独立，也侵犯各国人民自决和充分行使人权的权利。因此，直接或间接支持此类犯罪行动的政府就构成对国际和平与安全的威胁。

我们以本函所述证据向世界证明，哥伦比亚政府和美国政府支持雇佣军和恐怖分子团体，为其提供训练、资助、装备和避风港，因此对针对我国实施的武装侵略负责。这两国政府的此种行为无视本区域各国国家元首和政府首脑 2014 年已通过宣言宣布拉丁美洲和加勒比为和平区的事实，正在委内瑞拉和整个区域引发一场后果无法估量的冲突。

因此，哥伦比亚政府和美国政府违反了相关国际法规则规定的义务，包括安全理事会第 2625(XXV)号决议，大会第 36/103 号、第 54/151 号和第 74/138 号决议，前述各项决议和《反对招募、使用、资助和训练雇佣军国际公约》规定的义务。

鉴于本函所报告事件的严重性和针对我国所实施侵略的危险升级，我谨通知你，委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国不久将向适当的国际司法机构提起诉讼。

在这方面，我谨通知你，我们已提请安全理事会主席启动有关步骤，推动该机构紧急举行必要讨论，以便：(a) 确认波哥大政府和华盛顿政府于 2020 年 5 月 3 日和 4 日对委内瑞拉实施的侵略是威胁我国和本区域和平与安全的武装袭击；(b) 根据《联合国宪章》第三十九条赋予该机构的权力，发表明确声明，谴责并禁止对委内瑞拉使用或威胁使用一切形式和表现的武力。

在这方面，我们认为，安全理事会必须切实承担《联合国宪章》赋予它的确保维护国际和平与安全的责任。对于在整个国际社会理应努力拯救人类免遭冠状病毒病(COVID-19)灾难之际针对我国实施的这些侵略行为，我们将继续予以谴责。

你呼吁立即停火，停止世界各地的一切冲突，以便我们集中力量同当下的共同敌人 COVID-19 作斗争。委内瑞拉已表示支持这一呼吁。然而，令人遗憾的是，安全理事会的常任理事国美国反对这一目标，无视面对大流行病一荣俱荣、一损俱损的事实。

总之，我怀着民族自豪感向你报告，美国政府和哥伦比亚政府及其雇佣兵和恐怖分子的武装侵略已被击败。委内瑞拉的敌人们遇到了有组织、有纪律、团结

³⁶ 见 www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/70/070-19860627-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf。

捍卫国家主权的人民和政府。我们的渔民和农民、平民和军队以及整个社会再一次彰显了团结一心捍卫生命、和平与独立的民族精神。我们知道，危险尚未过去，我们正在准备防御新的威胁。因此，我谨通知你，我们此刻士气高昂，准备无所畏惧地面对人类公敌。我国不对任何人构成威胁，希望人人都能吸取一个教训，即：委内瑞拉不是用来买卖的商品，永不会成为殖民地，我们的人民将以和平与决心履行其通往自由的职责。

最后，请将本函及其附件作为大会议程项目 31(a)下的文件和安全理事会的文件分发为荷。

委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国
常驻联合国代表

大使

塞缪尔·蒙卡达(签名)

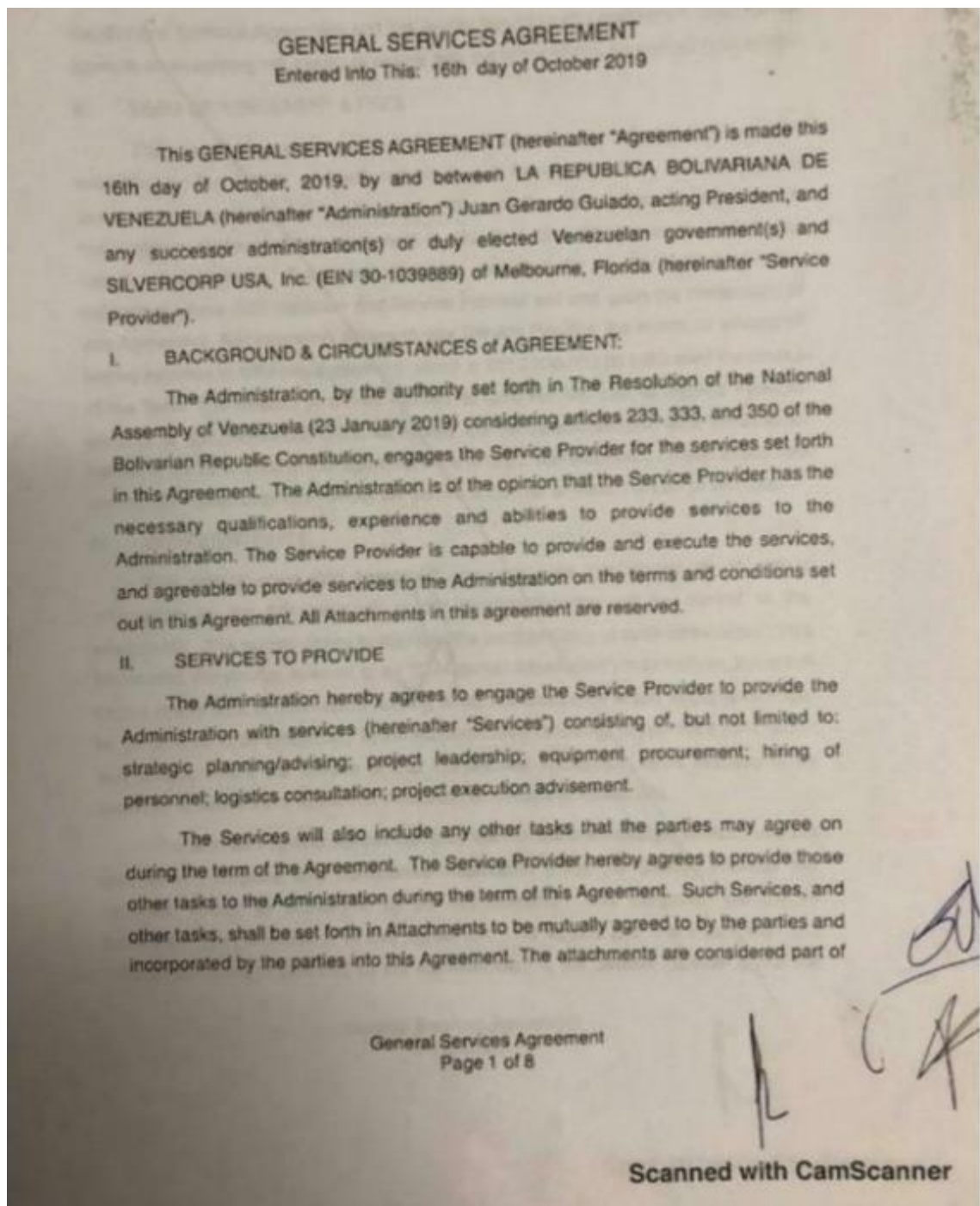
2020 年 5 月 13 日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和
安全理事会主席的同文信的附件一







2020年5月13日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和
安全理事会主席的同文信的附件二



the General Services Agreement and are legally bound to this agreement. The Parties agree to do everything necessary to ensure that the terms of this Agreement take effect.

III. TERM OF AGREEMENT & FEES

The term of this Agreement (the "Term") will begin on the date this Agreement is executed by the parties and will remain in full force and effect indefinitely until terminated as provided for in this Agreement. Service Provider and Administration agree the minimum duration of this agreement is 495 days. See Attachment A- Timing and Length of Agreement. Except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the obligations of the Administration and Service Provider will end upon the termination of this Agreement. Administration agrees to pay Service Provider the minimum amount of money required to fulfill this agreement which is \$212,900,000.00 USD over the course of the Term. The amount of money needed to fulfill the first part of Service Provider services is \$50,000,000.00 USD. All money will be backed/secured with Venezuelan barrels of oil. All monies in this agreement are in USD. Administration agrees to pay any loan within 1 year. Service Provider will secure a loan for at least first part of services.

IV. CONFIDENTIALITY

The parties enter this Agreement and anticipate that disclosure of certain information by the Administration to the Service Provider will be central to the relationship. The parties desire to maintain the confidentiality of such information. This information (hereinafter referred to as "Confidential Information") may include, but is not limited to any data or information relating to the Administration which would reasonably be considered to be proprietary to the Administration including, government information and records where the release of that Confidential Information could reasonably be expected to cause harm to the Administration or citizens of Venezuela.

The Service Provider agrees that they will not disclose, divulge, reveal, report or use, for any purpose, any Confidential Information which the Service Provider has obtained, except as authorized by the Administration. This obligation will survive indefinitely upon termination of this Agreement. All written and oral information and material disclosed or provided by the Administration to the Service Provider under this

General Services Agreement
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Agreement is Confidential Information regardless of whether it was provided before or after the date of this Agreement or how it was provided to the Service Provider. The Service Provider shall take all measures reasonably necessary to protect the Confidential Information received from the Administration, at least as great as the measures it takes to protect its own confidential information. The Service Provider shall further assure that Confidential Information received from the Administration shall be separated from other Service Provider information in order to prevent commingling.

The Service Provider shall use the Confidential Information solely for the purpose of evaluating serviced for the Administration, and performing services for the Administration. In no way shall the Service Provider use the Confidential Information to the detriment of the Administration.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to grant or imply any rights, by license or otherwise, to the Service Provider under any copyright, trade or intellectual property right. Nor shall this Agreement grant or imply to the Service Provider any rights in the Administration's Confidential Information.

The Service Provider agrees to indemnify the Administration against any and all losses, damages, claims, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred or suffered by the Administration as result of a breach of confidentiality.

The Service Provider shall return to the Administration any and all records, notes, and other written, printed or other tangible materials in their possession pertaining to the Confidential Information immediately upon request by the Administration. Upon termination of this Agreement, the Service Provider shall promptly: a) deliver to the Administration all tangible documents and materials containing, reflecting, incorporating, or based upon confidential information; b) permanently erase all confidential information from its computer database(s); and, c) certify in writing to the Administration that it has complied with the requirements of this section.

The Service Provider understands and acknowledges that any disclosure or misappropriation of Confidential Information in violation of this Agreement may cause the Administration irreparable harm, the amount of which may be difficult to ascertain,

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and therefore agrees that the Administration shall have the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for specific performance and/or restraining order.

V. RELATIONSHIP & REPRESENTATIONS OF THE PARTIES

In providing the Services under this Agreement it is expressly agreed that the Service Provider is acting as an independent contractor and not as an employee. The Service Provider and the Administration acknowledge that this Agreement does not create a partnership or joint venture between them, and is exclusively a contract for service. Attachment B Rules of Service Provider Engagement.

VI. NOTICE & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All notices, requests, demands or other communications required or permitted by the terms of this Agreement will be given in writing and delivered to the Parties of this Agreement.

In the event a dispute arises out of or in connection with this Agreement, the Parties will attempt to resolve the dispute through good-faith consultation. If the dispute is not resolved within a reasonable period then any or all outstanding issues may be submitted to mediation in accordance with any statutory rules of mediation. If mediation is unavailable, or is not successful in resolving the entire dispute, any outstanding issues will be submitted to final and binding arbitration in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida of the United States of America. The arbitrator's award will be final, and judgment may be entered upon it by any court having jurisdiction within the State of Florida.

VII. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

Any amendment or modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by either party in connection with this Agreement will only be binding if evidenced in writing signed by each party or an authorized representative of each party.

IX. TIME OF THE ESSENCE

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Time is of the essence in this Agreement. No extension or variation of this Agreement will operate as a waiver of any provision, term or condition as set forth in this Agreement.

X. ASSIGNMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

The Service Provider will not voluntarily or by operation of law assign or otherwise transfer its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Administration.

XI. CANCELLATION FOR CONVENIENCE

Administration may not at any time and for no reason terminate Service Provider's services and work at Administration's convenience. Service Provider may not at any time and for no reason terminate services and work at Service Provider's convenience. If Service Provider terminates agreement he forgoes all pay, compensation and expenses. Furthermore, Service Provider must pay back all money that was transferred with the exception of the initial retainer. If Administration terminates agreement, Administration will be responsible for all payments currently owed, all future payments defined in the Term of this agreement and three more months of payments on top of the agreed upon contract duration.

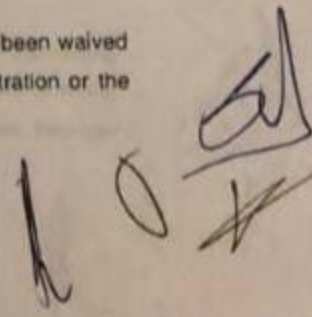
XII. GOVERNING LAW

It is the intention of the Parties to this Agreement that this Agreement and the performance under this Agreement, and all suits and special proceedings under this Agreement, be construed in accordance with and governed, to the exclusion of the law of any other forum, by the laws of the State Florida of the United States of America, without regard to the jurisdiction in which any action or special proceeding may be instituted.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- a) None of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed to have been waived by any act, omission, or acquiescence on the part of the Administration or the Service Provider without a written instrument signed by the parties.

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- b) Waiver by either Party of a breach, default, delay or omission of any of the provisions of this Agreement by the other Party will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or other provisions.
- c) The Headings in the Agreement are inserted for the convenience of the Parties only and are not to be considered when interpreting this Agreement.
- d) This Agreement can be changed at any time by written mutual consent hereto by the parties.
- e) This Agreement, along with any attachments, encompasses the entire Agreement, and supersedes any and all previously written or oral understandings and agreements between the parties, respecting the subject matter hereof. The parties hereby acknowledge and represent, by affixing their hands and seals hereto, that said parties have not relied on any representation, assertion, guarantee, warranty, collateral contract or other assurance, except those set out in this Agreement, made by or on behalf of any other party or any other person or entity whatsoever, prior to the execution of this Agreement. The parties hereby waive all rights and remedies, at law or in equity, arising or which may arise as the result of a party's reliance on such representation, assertion, guarantee, warranty, collateral contract or other assurance, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as a restriction or limitation of said party's right to remedies associated with the gross negligence, willful misconduct or fraud of any person or party taking place prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of this Agreement.
- f) The provisions of this agreement are severable. If any provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the matters described above and of the mutual benefits and obligations set forth in this Agreement, the receipt and sufficiency of which consideration is hereby acknowledged, the Administration and the Services Provider

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agree to this Agreement and attachments on the 16th day of October, 2019, in two original copies in both the Spanish and English languages. The English version is superior in legal procedures.

By signing this General Service Agreement, Juan Gerardo Guaido, as president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, accepts, agrees and approves the terms and conditions described hereafter as well as the attachments of this General Service Agreement. The attachments will be signed by the designated Commissioners Sergio Vergara and Juan José Rendón.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties duly affix their signatures under hand and seal on this 16th day of October, 2019.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED in the presence of or by video conference:

LA REPUBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE
VENEZUELA (Administration)

SILVERCORP USA, Inc.
(Service Provider)

By:

Juan Gerardo Guaido
President of Venezuela

By:

Jordan Goudreau,
CEO Silvercorp USA

By:

Sergio Vergara, Comisionado
High Presidential Commissioner for Crisis
Management

By:

Juan Jose Rendon, Comisionado
High Presidential Commissioner General
Strategy and Crisis Management

Manuel J. Retureta
Witness

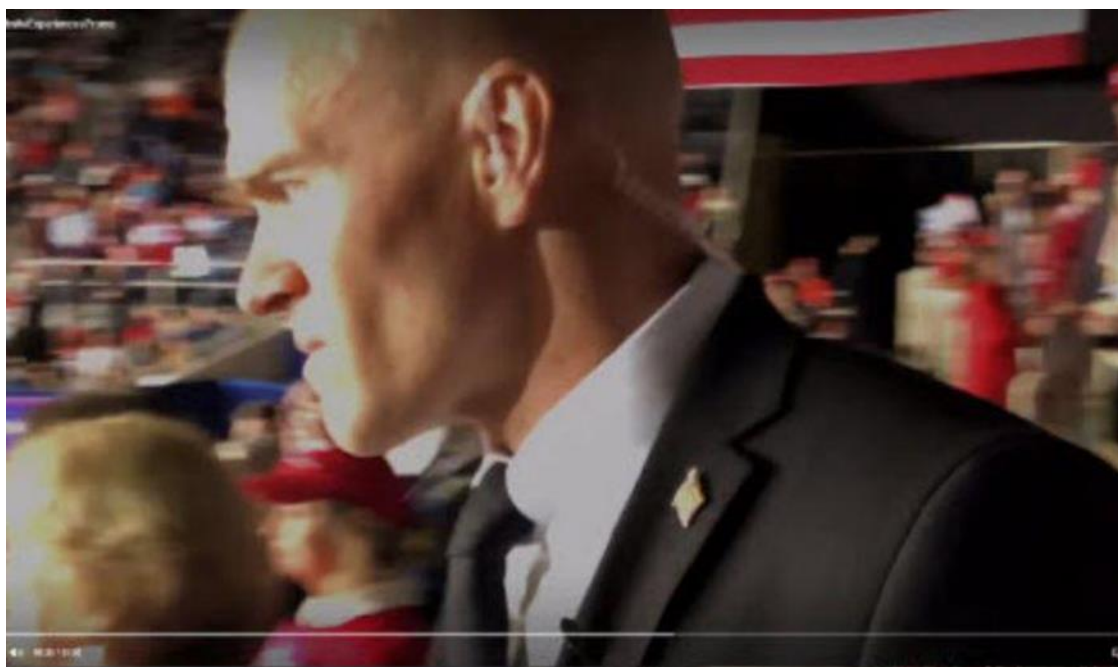
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2020 年 5 月 13 日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和
安全理事会主席的同文信的附件三

附件三可通过以下链接查看：

www.washingtonpost.com/context/read-the-attachments-to-the-general-services-agreement-between-the-venezuelan-opposition-and-silvercorp/e67f401f-8730-4f66-af53-6a9549b88f94

2020 年 5 月 13 日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和
安全理事会主席的同文信的附件四







2020 年 5 月 13 日委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国常驻联合国代表给秘书长和安全理事会主席的同文信的附件五

Highlights of the preparation of the aggression against Venezuela by the Governments of Colombia and the United States of America

February, March and April 2020

February

1. On 4 February 2020, Juan Guaidó and Iván Simonovis were special guests of President Donald Trump during the State of the Union Address.¹
2. On 5 February 2020, the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, received Juan Guaidó at the White House.² The next day, Juan Guaidó held a meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.³ In both meetings they agreed “to redouble efforts to provide the Venezuelan people with what they have been demanding for years: an end to Maduro’s dictatorship and the restoration of democracy, economic prosperity, and dignity to the people of Venezuela.”
3. On 13 February 2020, Iván Simonovis, appointed by Juan Guaidó as Head of Security and Intelligence Affairs, held a meeting at the White House with United States President Donald Trump.⁴

March

4. On 2 March 2020, Colombian President Iván Duque made a sudden visit to the United States. During the visit, President Duque discussed Venezuela with President Trump, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and White House National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien. During his meeting with Donald Trump, President Duque asked for more sanctions against the Government of President Nicolás Maduro.⁵ According to

¹ See www.whitehouse.gov/articles/special-guests-for-president-trumps-3rd-state-of-the-union-address/.

² See <https://usoas.usmission.gov/united-states-stands-with-interim-president-guaido-and-venezuelas-freedom/>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-responsable-seguridad-inteligencia-guaido-eeuu-reune-trump-casa-blanca-20200213163405.html.

⁵ See www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-president-duque-colombia-bilateral-meeting-2/.

press reports, he went to Washington to coordinate the end of the “dictatorship” in Venezuela.⁶

5. From 3 to 5 March 2020, a meeting of the operational network of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance was held in Washington, D.C., followed by a workshop on sanctions and other measures. The workshop sought to coordinate methodologies for the application of new sanctions against Venezuela. Some countries were considering applying the methodology of the United Nations sanctions committees, but the United States, Canada and Colombia wanted to impose their own.⁷

6. On 4 March 2020, President Trump stated from the Latino Coalition Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. that the tragedy in Venezuela was a reminder that socialism and communism brought misery and heartache wherever they were applied. “We are with Venezuela all the way and we are doing a lot. And we have a lot planned. The United States supports the suffering people of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua in their righteous struggle for liberty.”⁸

7. On 4 March 2020, Admiral Craig Faller, Commander of the United States Southern Command, met with General Luis Navarro Jiménez, Commander General of the Armed Forces of Colombia. The meeting dealt with issues of regional security and defence cooperation.⁹

8. On 5 March 2020, the Bolivarian National Guard seized war weapons on a flight from Bogotá at the Arturo Michelena International Airport in the city of Valencia (Venezuela). AK-47 chargers, rifle butts and cartridges were seized.¹⁰

9. On 5 March 2020, the Commander of the Strategic Region for the Integral Defence of the Andes, Major General Federico Guzmán Bornia, accompanied by the protector of the state of Táchira, Freddy Bernal, and General Ángel Moronta Juliao, Commander of the Operational Zone of Integral Defence of the state of Táchira, reported the seizure of 650 kilos of explosives, the detention of 37 alleged paramilitaries and the neutralization of 12 more over the past month. The following seizures were also made

⁶ See www.voanoticias.com/americ-latina/duque-dictadura-venezuela-trump.

⁷ See www.elnacional.com/venezuela/politica/guaido-ratifico-a-paparoni-para-la-proxima-cumbre-del-tiar-sobre-venezuela/.

⁸ See www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-latino-coalition-legislative-summit-2/.

⁹ See <https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1235271450350755840>.

¹⁰ See <https://mundo.sputniknews.com/americ-latina/202003051090688474-la-fuerza-armada-venezolana-incauta-armas-de-guerra-en-un-avion-procedente-de-colombia/>.

under Operation Bolivarian Shield 2020: 50 vehicles, 30 motorcycles, cattle trucks, 450,000 litres of fuel and more than 570 kilos of drugs.¹¹

10. On 5 March 2020, the Government of Jair Bolsonaro announced the withdrawal of its diplomats from the embassy and some consulates in Venezuela (Caracas, Ciudad Guayana and the vice-consulate in Santa Elena de Uairén).¹²

11. On 5 March 2020, the Government of the United States of America renewed the executive order declaring Venezuela an unusual and extraordinary threat to its national security.¹³

12. On 6 March 2020, the White House website published a fact sheet on the level of bilateral relations between the United States and Brazil, which emphasized the measures that Brazil had taken against the Government of President Nicolás Maduro.¹⁴

13. On 6 March 2020, Carlos Vecchio, the representative of Mr. Guaid in Washington, D.C., told the United States television station VPItv that President Nicolás Maduro's Government was a threat to the region's security and that the issue had been addressed during Juan Guaidó's visit to the United States.¹⁵

14. On 6 March 2020, the United States Army deployed at least three CH-47F Chinook heavy transport helicopters to Colombia as part of the joint military exercises that took place between 9 and 20 March in the department of Guajira, on the border with Venezuela, in the very region where the three mercenary camps of "Operation Gideon" were located.¹⁶

15. On 6 March 2020, in a phone call with the press by senior United States government officials regarding the meeting between President Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, the following was stressed: "I think in the days and weeks to come, there's going to continue to be escalation towards the maximum pressure that we seek and that we've set out as our policy, Hopefully, we don't have to get ever to 100 percent maximum pressure, but we are all dedicated, along with our allies – Colombia

¹¹ See www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/general/incautados-mas-de-650-kilos-de-explosivos-en-operativos-en-tachira/.

¹² See www.diariolasamericas.com/america-latina/brasil-retira-once-funcionarios-diplomaticos-venezuela-n4194318.

¹³ See www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/message-congress-continuation-national-emergency-respect-venezuela/.

¹⁴ See www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-brazil-partners-for-a-prosperous-hemisphere/.

¹⁵ See https://vpitv.com/ultimas_noticias_sobre_venezuela/carlos-vecchio-el-mensaje-es-claro-ee-uu-continuara-presionando-a-maduro/.

¹⁶ See www.webinfomil.com/2020/03/ejercito-de-eeuu-desplego-helicopteros.html?m=1.

and Brazil, in particular, but also the rest of the Lima Group members – to achieve that democratic transition and free and fair elections in Venezuela (...) We have a lot of plans, there's a lot of coordination that is taking place, but... the Maduro tyranny, as which is – I'm quoting from the State of the Union – needs to be and will be smashed and destroyed if there's not a pathway towards free and fair democratic elections in the near future – presidential elections in near future.”¹⁷

16. On 7 and 8 March 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro visited the United States. The President of Brazil met with President Donald Trump¹⁸ and various members of the United States Government, including the Commander of the Southern Command, Craig Faller.¹⁹

17. On 9 March 2020, United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions, David Peyman, said that new sectors could be added as sanctions against Venezuela intensified.²⁰

18. On 9 March 2020, the joint military exercise known as “Exercise Vita” began between the armies of Colombia and the United States of America in the region of Alta Guajira on the border with Venezuela. The purpose of this exercise, which was allegedly for humanitarian purposes, was “to conduct joint military-to-military training and reflect the commitment, good relations and joint work between the armies of Colombia and the United States.” This exercise involved several units of the Colombian army as well as Task Force-Bravo of the United States army, which is permanently located at the United States military base in Palmerola, Honduras.²¹ This military exercise, which was scheduled to run until 30 March, had to be suspended on 16 March due to the measures being taken by the Colombian Government to deal with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).²² The United States Joint Task Force-Bravo issued the following statement via Twitter: “We regret that we will not be able to finish the impactful work we started with our #Colombian partners over the last week. Given the rapidly changing situation across the region,

¹⁷ See <https://publicpool.kinja.com/subject-background-press-call-by-senior-administration-1842181821>.

¹⁸ See www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-meeting-president-jair-bolsonaro-brazil/.

¹⁹ See www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/2105124/brazilian-president-visits-southcom/.

²⁰ See <https://mundo.sputniknews.com/politica/202003091090726235-eeuu-amenaza-a-nuevos-sectores-a-medida-que-aumenta-sanciones-a-venezuela/>.

²¹ See www.infobae.com/america/venezuela/2020/03/10/ejercicio-vita-colombia-y-eeuu-iniciaron-un-entrenamiento-humanitario-en-la-frontera-con-venezuela/.

²² See <https://twitter.com/jtfbravo/status/1239701521102786560>.

we have to reset our ability to respond as a dynamic force for @Southcom.”²³ “Despite its early conclusion, #ExerciseVita provided valuable training and readiness for our teams. Together, we saw nearly 1,300 patients in communities in #LaGuajira, provided \$65,000 in humanitarian donations, and grew our collective interoperability and #readiness.”²⁴

19. On 10 March 2020, a march called for by the opposition sectors in Venezuela was held without significant participation. United States Senator Rick Scott spoke about this on his Twitter account, saying: “The fight for liberty and democracy is not easy, but it’s a worthy and necessary fight. I stand with the people of Venezuela as they go to the streets today and continue to make their voices heard @NicolasMaduro will be out of power soon and Venezuela will finally see #freedom. #10mar.”²⁵

20. On 11 March 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo presented the State Department’s annual report on human rights. The document accuses the Government of President Nicolás Maduro of committing abuses every day against Venezuelans, including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture and arbitrary detentions.²⁶

21. On 11 March 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, Secretary Pompeo expressed support for “Brazil’s continued leadership in seeking a resolution to the political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, including the expulsion of Maduro-aligned diplomats from Brazil.”²⁷

22. On 11 March 2020, Southern Command Chief Craig S. Faller testified before the House Armed Services Committee during a hearing on national security challenges and United States military activity in North and South America. At the hearing he stated that, recognizing those challenges in its neighbourhood, there would be “an increase in United States military presence in the hemisphere” that year. That would include “enhanced presence of ships, aircraft and security forces to reassure our partners, improve United States and partner readiness and interoperability, and counter a range of threats, to include narcoterrorism.” He went on to say that the Maduro regime would continue to cling to power and to brutalize the population and that the current year’s human rights report had listed significant human rights violations by the Maduro regime.

²³ See <https://twitter.com/durov/status/1239702029955559424>.

²⁴ See <https://twitter.com/durov/status/1239702404460949505>.

²⁵ See <https://twitter.com/SenRickScott/status/1237451332740661248>.

²⁶ See www.state.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-on-the-release-of-the-2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/.

²⁷ See www.state.gov/secretary-pompeos-meeting-with-brazilian-foreign-minister-ernesto-araujo-3/.

He then stated that Maduro remained in power because of the thousands of Cubans who protected and cared for him, the hundreds of Russians right next door working to upgrade air defence systems, the Russian special forces working to train Maduro's forces and, to a lesser extent, China, which was particularly involved in some cyber areas, which had allowed Maduro to hold on to power and continue to brutalize the population. He also said that traffickers had profited from the situation, as had Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) terrorists and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC) dissidents, and that instability, along with migrants, had generated instability in the region. He also gave credit to partners like Colombia, which had handled the situation so well.²⁸

23. On 13 March 2020, Colombian President Iván Duque announced the closure of the border crossings with Venezuela, as of Saturday 14 March, as a measure in response to the pandemic caused by COVID-19.²⁹

24. On 23 March 2020, the transit police in Colombia seized an arsenal of weapons intended for the training camps of the mercenaries who would be going to Venezuela to carry out the operation to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro Moros.³⁰

25. On 24 March 2020, the general quarantine period began in Colombia as part of the measures taken by the Government of Iván Duque to prevent the spread of COVID-19.³¹

26. On 25 March 2020, the Sector Vice President for Communication, Culture and Tourism, Jorge Rodríguez, reported that selective assassinations were being planned from Colombia in March against President Nicolás Maduro, Diosdado Cabello and other high-ranking Venezuelan officials.³² Mr. Rodríguez said that on 23 March the Colombian media had published information about the seizure of a war arsenal in La Ciénaga, Barranquilla, valued at around 500,000 dollars, which was to be introduced to Venezuela through the border of Paraguachón in the state of Zulia. He said that the seized arsenal contained 26 AR-15 assault rifles, 36 rifle butts, 28 two-eye night-vision goggles, nine one-eye night vision goggles and eight rifle silencers. The Vice President reported that the conspiratorial plan involved the President of the United States, Donald Trump, as well as former Prosecutor Luisa Ortega Díaz, self-

²⁸ See <https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1237772467218919425>.

²⁹ See www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2020/03/14/colombia-cierra-frontera-con-venezuela-y-restringe-ingreso-de-extranjeros-desde-europa-y-asia/.

³⁰ See www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/incautan-armamento-de-guerra-entre-cienaga-y-barranquilla-476388.

³¹ See http://spanish.xinhuanet.com/2020-03/26/c_138917132.htm.

³² See <https://albaciudad.org/2020/03/jorge-rodriguez-3-campamentos-riohacha-colombia-arsenal-armas>.

proclaimed president Juan Guaidó and even the Venezuelan military deserter Cliver Alcalá Cordones.³³

27. On 25 March 2020, the United States Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, issued an order to the United States military to halt travel and movement abroad for up to 60 days in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 through the ranks of the United States military.³⁴

28. On 26 March 2020, Attorney General William Barr, in conjunction with other United States judicial and law enforcement authorities, filed official charges against President Nicolás Maduro and 14 other current and former Venezuelan government officials for “narco-terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking, and other criminal charges”. President Nicolás Maduro, Diosdado Cabello, Tareck El Aissami, Hugo Carvajal and Cliver Alcalá have each been charged with: “(1) participating in a narco-terrorist conspiracy, which carries a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum of life in prison; (2) conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, which carries a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum of life in prison; (3) using and carrying machine guns and destructive devices during and in relation to, and possessing machine guns and destructive devices in furtherance of, the narco-terrorism and cocaine-importation conspiracies, which carries a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum of life in prison; and (4) conspiring to use and carry machine guns and destructive devices during and in relation to, and to possess machine guns and destructive devices in furtherance of, the narco-terrorism and cocaine-importation conspiracies, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.”³⁵

29. Similarly, the State Department announced a series of rewards offered under its Narcotics Rewards Programme for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the five Venezuelans on drug trafficking charges³⁶: 15 million dollars for Nicolás Maduro and 10 million dollars for Diosdado Cabello, Tareck El Aissami, Hugo Carvajal and Cliver Alcalá.

30. On 26 March 2020, after the Justice Department announced the charges against President Nicolás Maduro and other current and former Venezuelan government officials, Cliver Alcalá confessed in a series of videos posted on his social networks that

³³ See www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/politica/jorge-rodriguez-revela-plan-de-ataque-terrorista-a-funcionarios-de-gobierno/.

³⁴ See www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-pentagon-exclu/exclusive-pentagon-orders-halt-to-overseas-movement-for-u-s-forces-for-up-to-60-days-over-coronavirus-idUSKBN21C3A2.

³⁵ See www.justice.gov/opa/pr/nicol-s-maduro-moros-and-14-current-and-former-venezuelan-officials-charged-narco-terrorism.

³⁶ See www.state.gov/department-of-state-offers-rewards-for-information-to-bring-venezuelan-drug-traffickers-to-justice/.

the arsenal of weapons seized in Colombia days before, and reported by Jorge Rodríguez as part of a plan against President Maduro and other high-ranking officials, had been bought by Juan Guaidó to carry out military action against President Nicolás Maduro; and that this would be part of a plan led by him and agreed to by Juan Guaidó and United States advisers. Mr. Alcalá confessed that as proof of the purchase of the arms there was a contract signed by Juan Guaidó and his political strategist J.J. Rendón, adding that figures such as Leopoldo López and Iván Simonovis were aware of the operation.³⁷

31. On 26 March 2020, the Government of Colombia ordered the militarization of border crossings with Venezuela, as part of the measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19.³⁸

32. On 27 March 2020, the United States virtual embassy launched a risk alert for United States citizens in Venezuela. On a webpage, the United States virtual embassy for Venezuela operating from Bogotá said that it had received credible information that United States citizens in Venezuela might currently be at risk of threats or aggression from the Venezuelan regime's armed mercenary groups, known locally as collectives.³⁹

33. On 27 March 2020, former general and fugitive from Venezuelan justice Cliver Alcalá Cordones was transferred to the United States of America by the United States governmental authorities to be brought to justice on drug-trafficking charges.⁴⁰

34. On 27 March 2020, the Partido Libre (Liberty and Refoundation Party) and other social movements in Honduras published a statement to the public in which they denounced and rejected the military aggression operations against Venezuela that were being planned from the United States military base in Palmerola, the very same military base of Joint Task Force-Bravo. They also rejected a communiqué on Venezuela issued by the Honduran Foreign Ministry,⁴¹ calling it an expression of complicity in the aggression.⁴² In the communiqué, the Honduran Foreign Ministry had supported the measures taken by the United States Government against Venezuela, affirming that, for

³⁷ See www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/politica/cliver-alcala-confiesa-que-las-armas-son-de-guaido-y-de-eeuu/.

³⁸ See www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/colombia-militariza-paso-fronterizo-con-venezuela-para-controlar-las-trochas/20000013-4205044.

³⁹ See www.voanoticias.com/estadosunidos/eeuu-embajada-venezuela-alerta-ciudadanos.

⁴⁰ See www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/general-cliver-alcala-se-entrego-a-la-justicia-de-estados-unidos-477960.

⁴¹ See <https://twitter.com/CancilleriaHN/status/1243369539200602112>.

⁴² See <https://twitter.com/manuelzr/status/1243749546527686656/photo/2>.

many years, Venezuelan drug trafficking had tried to corrupt Honduras and its institutions.⁴³

35. On 27 March 2020, the French navy warships *Mistral* (L9013) and *Dixmude* (L9015) set sail for the Caribbean in support of COVID-19 relief efforts. These new deployments took place as part of the new operation “Resilience”, which was described as an “unprecedented military operation dedicated to supporting public services and the French people in the fields of health, logistics and protection”.⁴⁴

36. On 28 March 2020, the media announced that the Colombian police had raided one of the houses in Riohacha, La Guajira, where the mercenaries were training. In the raid the police reportedly found uniforms, badges, propaganda, identification documents of the Venezuelan armed forces, political maps of Venezuela, toiletries, personal items and some kitchen utensils.⁴⁵

37. On 30 March 2020, at 0045 hours, the Venezuelan Coast Guard vessel *Naiguatá* (GC-23) of the Bolivarian navy observed a vessel stationed without authorization in Venezuelan territorial sea, eight miles north of La Tortuga Island. After initiating the maritime traffic control procedure, the Venezuelan authorities identified the Portuguese flag passenger ship as RCGS *Resolute*, which admitted to having been stationed for two days in that location. For that reason, the Venezuelan authorities, upon realizing that RCGS *Resolute* had violated the principle of innocent passage by staying so long in the same position without any authorization or explanation, requested that it halt and change course to the Venezuelan port of Pampatar. RCGS *Resolute* refused to comply with the instructions of the Venezuelan Coast Guard vessel, instead ramming into it and causing the vessel to sink.^{46,47}

38. On 30 March 2020, according to an article published by the *Miami Herald* newspaper, a senior Trump Administration official said that President Nicolás Maduro should accept the offer of the United States Government “to negotiate his exit” from power in Venezuela. “History shows that those who do not cooperate with United States law enforcement agencies do not fare well. Maduro probably regrets not taking the offer six months ago. We urge Maduro not to regret not taking it now”, the official said during

⁴³ See <https://proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-respalda-posicion-de-eeuu-respecto-al-narcotrafico-por-parte-del-gobierno-de-venezuela.html>.

⁴⁴ See <https://news.usni.org/2020/03/27/french-sending-amphibious-warships-to-caribbean-indian-ocean-for-coronavirus-response>.

⁴⁵ See www.elheraldo.co/judicial/primicia-policia-hallo-uniformes-militares-en-casa-la-que-llegaria-armamento-incautado.

⁴⁶ See www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR2ncGOPd9k.

⁴⁷ See www.mindefensa.gob.ve/mindefensa/2020/03/31/comunicado-oficial-de-la-fuerza-armada-nacional-bolivariana-5/.

a call to journalists. The official added that the accusation of drug trafficking unveiled the previous week by the Justice Department against Maduro and other top regime officials complicated his situation from a legal point of view, but that politically, they would negotiate the conditions for his departure.⁴⁸

39. On 30 March 2020, the United States Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, had scheduled the departure of a flight to repatriate United States citizens and residents who were stranded at the time in Colombia. This flight was later cancelled that day⁴⁹ and rescheduled for 2 April.^{50,51}

40. On 30 March 2020, it was reported in a White House press release that, during a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Trump had “reiterated that the situation in Venezuela is dire, and we all have an interest in seeing a democratic transition to end the ongoing crisis.”⁵²

41. On 31 March 2020, during a press conference, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo presented the “Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela” proposed by the United States Government. The Framework calls for the creation of a “Council of State” made up of members of the National Assembly to serve as a transitional government to administer “free and fair” presidential elections. It also offers a way to lift the general and individual sanctions related to Venezuela, if the conditions set out are met. These conditions include: the dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly; the election of new members of the National Electoral Council and the Supreme Court of Justice by the National Assembly; the release of political prisoners; and the departure of foreign security forces. The Framework offers guarantees that the military high command (Minister of Defence, Vice Minister of Defence, Commander of the Strategic Operational Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Force and Chiefs of Service) will remain in place during the transitional government, as well as the state or local authorities. In a State Department statement, Pompeo also warned that, as part of his strategy to pressure the Venezuelan Government, “sanctions will remain in effect, and increase, until the Maduro regime accepts a genuine political transition.”⁵³

⁴⁸ See www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article241619806.html.

⁴⁹ See <https://tubarco.news/tubarco-noticias-colombia/cancelado-vuelo-humanitario-de-estados-unidos-en-colombia/>.

⁵⁰ See https://caracol.com.co/radio/2020/04/01/internacional/1585703874_987639.html.

⁵¹ See <https://co.usembassy.gov/humanitarian-flight-on-spirit-airlines-2/>.

⁵² See <https://publicpool.kinja.com/subject-in-town-pool-report-2-putin-call-1842564733>.

⁵³ See www.state.gov/the-united-states-proposes-a-framework-for-a-peaceful-democratic-transition-in-venezuela/.

April

42. On 1 April 2020, President Trump, along with Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Attorney General William Barr and other Administration officials, announced a counter-narcotics operation that would double the United States military presence in the Western hemisphere with a deployment in the Caribbean Sea, off the coast of Venezuela, and the Eastern Pacific. According to the officials, the operation was due to the “growing threat” from drug cartels taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic for their benefit, particularly those operating from Mexico and Venezuela, where President Nicolás Maduro and other senior Venezuelan government officials were accused of being involved. During the announcement, the officials made it clear that the deployment of more military forces in the Caribbean was intended to put pressure on the Venezuelan Government. National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien explained that, with this counter-narcotics operation, the United States Government hoped to further “choke off the funds” going to Maduro regime from drug trafficking, after Defense Secretary Esper had accused the Venezuelan Government of relying “on the profits derived from the sale of narcotics to maintain their oppressive hold on power”. The officials also reported that the operation would be supported by 22 partner nations and would involve the deployment of navy warships, air force surveillance aircraft and special forces on the ground.⁵⁴

43. On 2 April 2020, the British ship RFA *Argus* headed for the Caribbean Sea in preparation to support the British Overseas Territories during the hurricane season and assist with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic if necessary. The French national navy also sent ships to the Caribbean Sea on COVID-19 support missions. All of this happened one day after the United States Government had announced the deployment of more military assets in the Caribbean Sea as part of the counter-narcotics operation supported by 22 other countries, which had Venezuela as its main target.⁵⁵

44. On 2 April 2020, in an interview with EVTV Miami, the former director of the United States Security Council for the Western Hemisphere and White House Adviser for South America, Mauricio Claver-Carone, said that President Nicolás Maduro and those around him had come to a point of cooperation or confrontation and added that it was not the time for “bravado” but the time for “common sense”. He said that common sense dictated that no one who had historically confronted North American justice had ever come out well. If they were looking for confrontation, then he did not know what

⁵⁴ See www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-vice-president-pence-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing-16/.

⁵⁵ See www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2020/04/british-casualty-ship-rfa-argus-dispatched-to-support-the-caribbean-region/.

model they were studying, because no model of confrontation with justice had a happy ending. For democracy and for justice, yes, but not for them.⁵⁶

45. On 2 April 2020, a former senior United States Administration official told *Foreign Policy* magazine that the Department of Defense had refused to send naval assets to the counter-narcotics operation deployed in the Caribbean Sea because resources were limited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the official, the opposition to the operation did not matter to President Trump and he added that it was “all politics”.⁵⁷

46. On 4 April 2020, according to *Newsweek* magazine, Trump Administration officials said that the announcement of the deployment of a counter-narcotics operation near the Venezuelan coast, made during the press conference of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, was intended to deflect criticism about the Administration’s mishandling of the COVID-19 epidemic. The officials reported that discussions with military personnel, such as Mark Milley and Craig Faller, about increasing military assets for the counter-narcotics operation had taken place in February 2020 and that “this wasn’t supposed to be put in the public until May.”⁵⁸

47. On 4 April 2020, 23 members of Congress and 15 local unions sent a letter to Colombian President Iván Duque asking him to refrain from intervening in the event that the United States made an incursion into the neighbouring country (Venezuela). In the letter it was stated that support of the Colombian Government for military action in Venezuelan territory, in the midst of the planetary crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, would have catastrophic consequences, not only for the Venezuelan people, but also for the country.^{59,60}

48. On 7 April 2020, during a press conference, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated in relation to Venezuela: “I want to express my thanks to the dozens of countries that have expressed support for the new Venezuela framework that I announced when I was here last week. The goal is to replace Maduro’s illegitimate dictatorship with a legitimate, transitional government that can hold free and fair elections, presidential elections to represent all Venezuelans. It’s time for Maduro to go.”⁶¹

⁵⁶ See www.youtube.com/watch?v=404amv_P7_Y.

⁵⁷ See <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/02/trump-plan-deploy-anti-drug-mission-navy-ships-caribbean-backlash-pentagon/>.

⁵⁸ See www.newsweek.com/trump-administration-drug-venezuela-operation-distract-coronavirus-1496044.

⁵⁹ See www.msn.com/es-co/noticias/colombia/grupo-de-congresistas-advierte-a-duque-sobre-apoyar-posible-invasión-a-venezuela/ar-BB12cobr.

⁶⁰ See https://twitter.com/Carlozada_FARC/status/1246626881799143430.

⁶¹ See www.state.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-remarks-to-the-press-8/.

49. On 7 April 2020, the former Ambassador of the United States of America in Venezuela, William Brownfield, in an interview with the Colombian newspaper *El Tiempo*, stated that the last three measures announced by the United States Government could be seen as a package of actions towards the same end. He described the final measure announced by the Administration, the counter-narcotics operation near the Venezuelan coast, as the application of the military option in the context of the twenty-first century. In the interview, he highlighted that there were many military options that did not resemble those of the last century and did not require thousands of soldiers landing on the beaches of Venezuela. He said that there were ways of making indirect interventions or using technology, of causing disruption to the chain of command, and of establishing humanitarian zones on the border or precision attacks that could be launched from thousands of kilometres away if one wanted to send a message without putting the population at risk. With the United States strategy, the Head of State was being accused of drug trafficking and a price was being offered for his capture. That would ensure that Maduro could not stay or return to Venezuela ever again. It was unlikely, he said, that Maduro would want to stay when he knew that there was a reward for his capture.⁶²

50. On 7 April 2020, in an interview with TVV Noticias (Venezuelan Television News), the former United States Chargé d'affaires in Venezuela, James Story, said that Venezuelan government officials were considering the State Department's proposed Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela. According to Mr. Story, the Framework was well thought out and had a good chance of being successfully implemented in Venezuela, especially because those within the regime knew that they could not deal with all the crises that they were facing at the moment and would have to seek a peaceful, democratic and constitutional way out as soon as possible.⁶³

51. On 8 April 2020, the "Orion V" multinational campaign of the Colombian naval forces began, in conjunction with 24 other countries, including Spain, France and the Netherlands,⁶⁴ which had joined the counter-narcotics operations led by the United States Southern Command in the Caribbean basin, in waters close to the Venezuelan coast. The Colombian President called the operation the world's greatest strategy against drug trafficking, whereby they had dismantled criminal structures and increased naval interdiction operations and seizure records.⁶⁵

⁶² See www.eltiempo.com/amp/mundo/eeuu-y-canada/entrevista-a-wiliam-brownfield-sobre-estrategia-para-transicion-en-venezuela-481744#click=https://t.co/H03TOiufDI.

⁶³ See www.elnacional.com/venezuela/james-story-hay-funcionarios-del-regimen-que-estan-evaluando-el-marco-para-la-transicion/.

⁶⁴ See www.defensa.com/colombia/n-25-paises-campana-naval-contra-narcotrafico-orion-v.

⁶⁵ See www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2020/04/07/ivan-duque-anuncio-el-inicio-de-la-quinta-fase-de-la-campana-multinacional-orion-contra-el-narcotrafico/.

52. On 8 April 2020, the United States Special Representative for Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, participated in a teleconference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in which he gave assurances that people within the Venezuelan Government would be communicating with the United States Government regarding the Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela. During this conversation he threatened the Venezuelan Government, saying that “things don’t get better, they get worse if you reject the American proposals. I think that’s something that Mr. Maduro should be thinking about. (...). If he thinks this is going to be better in three months or six months, he’s wrong. It’s not going to get better. It’s only going to get worse.” And referring to his role in the overthrow of Noriega in Panama and analogies with the Venezuelan situation, he said the following: “I was in the State Department in 1987 and 1988 when we were in fact trying to push Noriega out and negotiating with Noriega about his departure. And he rejected all of the American proposals, which in a certain sense led to the invasion (...). What could we say about the military side? We can say that things don’t get better, they get worse, if you reject American proposals. I think that’s something that Mr. Maduro should be thinking about. (...) There are obviously lots of military options. When we said all our options are – exist, you know, they’re on the table, you know, I was always saying, look, to say that all options are on the table isn’t really a policy statement. It’s a statement of fact. Every president has all of those options. At one end of the spectrum is that kind of full-fledged invasion – Panama, Iraq. And there is a wide spectrum. And there are – I read that interview with Ambassador Brownfield. There are many other things on that spectrum. You know, I’m not going to speculate about them today. They exist in real life. They’re always there, if the president wants to use them.”⁶⁶

53. On 8 April 2020, United States government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to the Reuters news agency, said that the gasoline shortage in Venezuela had worsened after the United States had asked foreign firms to refrain from supplying gasoline and only to provide diesel. One of the officials indicated that the United States wanted to see a reduction in gasoline shipments to Venezuela as part of Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign against Maduro. In more recent calls with Venezuela’s fuel suppliers in early March, United States officials had insisted that the restriction be maintained, even though humanitarian conditions in Venezuela were already showing signs of worsening. A source from one of the companies said that Trump Administration officials had stressed the message of “no gasoline” for Venezuela as part of the “changes” for Venezuelan oil, adding that his company had only supplied diesel and gasoline to Venezuela since September.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ See www.csis.org/analysis/conversation-us-special-representative-venezuela-elliott-abrams.

⁶⁷ See <https://lta.reuters.com/articulo/eeuu-venezuela-gasolina-idLTAKBN21Q27O>.

54. On 10 April 2020, Jaime Caicedo, Secretary of the Communist Party of Colombia, reported that there were naval exercises in Cartagena, actions in Guajira (on the Venezuelan border) and very precise training for taking over airports, as was done for the invasion of Panama in 1989. He also said that exercises had been carried out on the Guajira peninsula and in the north of Santander, and naval trials in Cartagena.⁶⁸

55. On 13 April 2020, the amphibious landing ship HNLMS *Karel Doorman* departed from Den Helder naval base in the Netherlands for the waters of the Caribbean Sea. It will remain patrolling the Caribbean Sea, south of Aruba and Curaçao, in waters next to the jurisdictional border with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.⁶⁹

56. On 17 April 2020, Admiral Craig Faller, Commander of the United States Southern Command, said the following in a telephone press conference: “Maduro and his cronies have been indicted as drug traffickers, and they profit enormously from illicit trade – a 50 percent increase in the illicit drug trafficking into and out of Venezuela in recent years. That makes the narcotraffickers who work in and out of Venezuela a target for our disruption, dismantlement, and defeat operations like any other transnational criminal organization (...). And so we continue to look for ways to put pressure on those networks that will take illicit financing out of the pockets of Maduro (...) we can’t all of us come together to get a legitimate democracy in Venezuela soon enough”. When asked if the United States of America was providing sufficient support to Colombia in the development of its operation “Orion” to allow its army to enter Venezuelan territory, should it be required at any time, Commander Faller said: “(...) my job, my focus is on our mission, and that is in support of State Department efforts for economic and diplomatic pressure. We do that principally, as I mentioned, through intelligence-sharing with our best partners – Brazil, Colombia, their professional security forces. We do that by planning. We have a significant day-after planning effort here at SouthCom working with other partner nations and our Department of State so that we would be ready for the kinds of assistance that might be required in a post-Maduro environment.”⁷⁰

57. On 29 April 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at a press conference that the effort to restore democracy was gaining momentum and plans were being updated to reopen the United States Embassy in Caracas once Maduro left power.⁷¹ That same day, he wrote on his Twitter account that he had had a “good talk” with Brazil’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ernesto Araujo, and that the United States-Brazil partnership was

⁶⁸ See https://mundo.sputniknews.com/radio_voces_del_mundo/202004101091069485-eeuu-y-colombia-ensayan-desembarcos-y-operaciones-en-el-limite-con-venezuela/.

⁶⁹ See www.webinfomil.com/2020/04/paises-bajos-despliega-el-buque-de.html.

⁷⁰ See www.state.gov/telephonic-press-briefing-with-admiral-craig-faller-commander-u-s-southern-command/.

⁷¹ See <https://twitter.com/WHASstSecty/status/1255590532694360064>.

“stronger than ever, and we must continue advancing the Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela. Together we will combat #COVID19 in the hemisphere.”⁷²

58. On 29 April 2020, the Government of the United States of America advised all United States citizens in Venezuela to shelter in place until commercial flights resumed operations.⁷³

59. On 30 April 2020, President Donald Trump activated the United States military reserve⁷⁴ to attend to operations in the Caribbean that are part of the policy of pressure and military siege against Venezuela.⁷⁵

60. On 30 April 2020, the Special Representative for Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, in an interview conducted by the Hudson Institute, stated that for the United States of America to be able to reopen its embassy in Venezuela, it must be certain that a new government providing the necessary security conditions had taken power. In this context, he stated that “if you want to be an optimist, this could start happening. But it could start happening tomorrow if Maduro would leave. It isn’t going to be the smoothest transition in the world (...) I think we have to be honest about that. But I think that, really, once Maduro and the Cubans are gone, you’ll find that the army really does want to serve as a patriotic national army and bring security to the country.”⁷⁶

⁷² See <https://twitter.com/SecPompeo/status/1255638631701712897>.

⁷³ See <https://twitter.com/usembassyve/status/1255563104672497668>.

⁷⁴ See www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-ordering-selected-reserve-armed-forces-active-duty/.

⁷⁵ See <https://es.panampost.com/sabrina-martin/2020/04/30/trump-activa-reserva-militar-para-operacion-antinarcoticos-al-norte-de-venezuela/>.

⁷⁶ See www.youtube.com/watch?v=op0DibGROKE&t=1s.