

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

South America Trip-Media Requests, October 1997

Staff Office-Individual:

Press-Gobush, Matthew

Original OA/ID Number:

3107

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September 5, 1997

FAX TO: ANNE LUZZATTO (456-9270)
MIKE MCCURRY (456-6423)

FROM: MICHAEL SKOL

Anne, Mike:

Confirming our two telephone conversations this afternoon, I would like to suggest that President Clinton appear on the CNN Spanish television program "Choque de Opiniones", to be broadcast just prior to his October trip to South America.

I am the co-moderator of "Choque de Opiniones", along with Marlene Fernandez, Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Correspondent of CNN Spanish. Modeled on "Crossfire", the show has become, in the six months since the launching of the 24-hour all-Spanish network, its number-one rated program, with an especially high penetration among top opinion makers.

The program is taped during the week, then broadcast to all Spanish-speaking countries in the region (including South Florida), plus Brazil and Spain, six times on Sundays and twice early Monday mornings. We would, of course, not subject the President to a "Crossfire": the format would be a 20-25 minute interview conducted by Marlene and me. Elements of the session would be re-broadcast in the network's regular news shows.

I believe that this would be the best way for the President to send a message southward -- to the entire region -- about his visit and the Administration's hemispheric vision. CNN Spanish is already planning to provide very extensive live coverage of the trip; this would be the ideal way to launch that effort. And I can guarantee that this will be a friendly, up-beat interview.

You should know that Marlene wrote previously to Eric Rubin about an interview. This fax is both a follow-up and a proposal for an improved format.

Please feel free to contact Marlene or our producer, Daniel Maiello, at CNN Spanish, or me or my assistant, Nicolas Fetchko at Diplomatic Resolutions (483-0116).

ANNE: Regards again from my colleague here, Chris Dorval. MIKE: If you promise to do your popping-out-of-the-floor trick, we'll put YOU on the show.



Diplomatic Resolutions, Inc.

9/5/97

FAX TO: JIM DOBBINS, NSC
456-9130

FROM: MIKE SKOL

Jim,

I'm sending you a copy of the fax I sent this afternoon to Mike McCurry and Anne Luzzatto. Just to let you know what I'm doing in your region. Any help would, of course, be appreciated.

Best regards,

1420 16TH St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-483-0116
Fax: 202-483-0132

DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Fax

To: Jim Dobbins

From: Natasha Rodriguez

Fax: 456-9130

Date: September 5, 1997

Phone:

Pages: 3

Re:

CC:

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

•Comments:

Gray, Wendy E.

From: Piccone, Theodore J.
Sent: Monday, September 08, 1997 8:17 AM
To: @PLANNING - Strat Plan & Comm
Cc: @PRESS - Public Affairs; Hofmann, Karl W.
Subject: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW - VENEZUELAN [UNCLASSIFIED]

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
MSGTO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7982
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CARACAS
PREC: IMMEDIATE
SSN: 3152
TOR: 970904083935 M2915276

How do you want to handle this request? Any thought given to a WH interview like the one we did before the Mexico trip?

-----Original Message-----

From: SitRoom
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 1997 9:00 AM
To: DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.; DeSouza, Patrick J.; Dobbins, James F.; Hofmann, Karl W.; Piccone, Theodore J.
Subject: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW - VENEZUELAN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003152

USIA

STATE FOR ARA - A/S DAVIDOW; ARA/PA, ARA/AND; WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF SCHEDULING & ADVANCE, PRESS OFFICE; USIA FOR D, DD, D/S, C, AR - LJEWELL, PSAMSON, CSCHARF; D/G, R/MR, I, I/F, I/GAR, B/TVP, B/TV/WPA; EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW - VENEZUELAN
NEWSPAPER "EL UNIVERSAL"

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY CARACAS HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM LEADING VENEZUELAN NATIONAL DAILY "EL UNIVERSAL" FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON PRIOR TO HIS OCTOBER VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA. A PRE-DEPARTURE, FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE, WITH VIDEOTAPING AND TELECASTING VIA WORLDNET. HOWEVER, OTHER FORMATS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, INCLUDING TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, WRITTEN RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS, OR INTERVIEW VIA INTERNET. NEWSPAPER (AND EMBASSY) WOULD WELCOME INCLUDING ARGENTINE AND/OR BRAZILIAN PRINT JOURNALISTS IN A FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW. END SUMMARY

2. "EL UNIVERSAL" PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ANDRES MATA APPROACHED USIS CARACAS TO REQUEST AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO HIS HISTORIC VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA. MATA, A LONG-TIME EMBASSY CONTACT, WOULD FLY TO WASHINGTON ON SHORT NOTICE TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW HIMSELF. MATA UNDERSTANDS THAT THE IMPACT OF SUCH AN INTERVIEW COULD BE MULTIPLIED BY EXPANDING IT BEYOND VENEZUELA, AND SEES THE LOGIC OF INCLUDING PRESS FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY IF THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY IF DEEMED ADVISABLE.

3. TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF A FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE VIDEOTAPED BY WHITE HOUSE TV AND SUBSEQUENTLY BROADCAST VIA WORLDNET. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT SUCH A BROADCAST BE TIMED TO APPEAR ON THE DAY THE PRINT STORIES APPEAR, SO THAT THE

PARTICIPATING PRINT JOURNALISTS AREN'T "SCOOPED" BY TV.

4. WHILE PREFERRING A FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW, MATA WOULD BE WILLING TO CONDUCT A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, TO RECEIVE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS, OR TO PARTICIPATE IN AN "ON-LINE" INTERVIEW VIA THE INTERNET.

5. "EL UNIVERSAL" PROPOSES TO DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. EMBASSY BELIEVES STATE DEPARTMENT/WHITE HOUSE MIGHT FIND THEM USEFUL AS AN INDICATOR OF VENEZUELA'S INTERESTS AND CONCERNS SURROUNDING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT:

(BEGIN PROPOSED QUESTIONS)

1) A BILATERAL INVESTMENT PROTECTION TREATY HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE RESOLVED BY YOUR VISIT TO VENEZUELA. WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

2) BESIDES THE INVESTMENT PROTECTION TREATY, WHAT OTHER AGREEMENTS DO YOU HOPE TO SIGN WITH PRESIDENT CALDERA DURING YOUR VISIT TO VENEZUELA?

3) HOW DOES YOUR ADMINISTRATION PLAN TO PROCEED WITH THE PROMOTION OF A FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS?

4) YOUR ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY LIFTED THE EMBARGO ON SALE OF HIGH-TECH WEAPONS TO LATIN AMERICA. WON'T THIS CONTRIBUTE TO A HEMISPHERIC ARMS RACE?

5) DRUG TRAFFICKING AND GUERILLA ACTIVITY IS CAUSING TENSION IN THE BORDER REGION BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA. DO YOU BELIEVE THE U.S. HAS ANY ROLE IN HELPING TO EASE THAT TENSION?

6) RECENT IMMIGRATION LAWS SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. IS BECOMING LESS TOLERANT TO IMMIGRANTS. IS THAT A FAIR ASSESSMENT?

7) ALTHOUGH VENEZUELA IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT DRUG-PRODUCING COUNTRY, IT IS BY ALL ACCOUNTS A MAJOR TRANSIT POINT FOR ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND A CENTER FOR LAUNDERING OF DRUG MONEY. WHAT CAN THE U.S. DO TO HELP VENEZUELA OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS?

8) VENEZUELA IS THE SINGLE LARGEST SOURCE OF IMPORTED OIL FOR THE UNITED STATES. HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT FACT IN DEFINING THE U.S.-VENEZUELAN RELATIONSHIP?

9) MANY PEOPLE PERCEIVE DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY AS FRAGILE. HOW WOULD THE U.S. RESPOND IF THAT DEMOCRACY UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 003152

USIA

STAE FOR ARA - A/S DAVIDOW; ARA/PA, ARA/AND; WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF SCHEDULING & ADVANCE, PRESS OFFICE; USIA FOR D, DD, D/S, C, AR - LJEWELL, PSAMSON, CSCHARF; D/G, R/MR, I, I/F, I/GAR, B/TVP, B/TV/PA; EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW - VENEZUEAN NEWSPAPER "EL UNIVERSAL"

WERE TO BE THREATENED -- BY AN ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT, FOR EXAMPLE?

(END PROPOSED QUESTIONS)

6. THE PAPER WOULD ALLOW EMBASSY TO REVIEW INTERVIEW TEXT FOR ACCURACY PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES THIS REQUEST. IT PROVIDES AN UNEQUALED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIGH-VISIBILITY COVERAGE OF THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND THE QUESTIONS INCLUDE THEMES THAT HAVE SIGNIFICANCE THROUGHOUT THE REGION. END COMMENT.

MAISTO