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"I always have a Plan B, and C and D and E and F," Trump says if Maduro stays in power in Venezuela

Moments ago

Trump meets with Colombian president

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2:00 PM - 13 Feb 2019

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow

In fact, my views on Venezuela, and especially Cuba, were far stronger than those of John Bolton. He was holding me back!

Marco Rubio @marcorubio
Just spoke to @realDonaldTrump on #Venezuela

It's true he disagreed with some of the views of previous advisor...

10:22 AM - 12 Sep 2019

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow

Maduro willing to negotiate with opposition in Venezuela following U.S. sanctions and the cutting off of oil revenues. Guaido is being targeted by Venezuelan Supreme Court. Massive protest expected today. Americans should not travel to Venezuela until further notice.

3:02 AM - 30 Jan 2019

2002: Embassy of the United States Caracas, Venezuela Public Affairs Office Press Release

RT QUESTION MORE

US-backed Venezuela 'president' Guaido could face 30 years in prison – judge

Published time: 26 Feb, 2019 22:48
Edited time: 27 Feb, 2019 10:24 [Get short URL](#)

Self-proclaimed president of Venezuela Juan Guaido at the Lima Group meeting in Bogota, Colombia, February 25, 2019 © Reuters / Luisa Gonzalez

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Bernie Sanders getting grief from his supporters for aligning with the Trump administration and its regime change efforts in Venezuela on.rt.com/9oz8

4:37 PM - 23 Feb 2019

CUT & PASTED: As of 09/15/19, the following information may be found at the following LINK:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20061006053902/http://embajadausa.org.ve/www1927.html>

(Please note: Boldface, Color Text, Underlining, etc. are for emphasis purposes...)

Press Release



*Embassy of the United States
Caracas, Venezuela
Public Affairs Office*

Press Release

State Dept. Issues Report on U.S. Actions During Venezuelan Coup
(Inspector General finds U.S. officials acted properly during coup)

The State Department's Inspector General has concluded in a new report that U.S. officials **acted appropriately and did nothing to encourage an April coup against Venezuela's president.**

The report, submitted by the Inspector General's office July 26, said the actions of **U.S. officials, both at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and at the State Department in Washington, complied with the Inter-American Democratic Charter** of the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote democracy and constitutionally in the Western Hemisphere.

Inspector General (IG) Clark Kent Ervin issued the report **at the request of Sen. Christopher Dodd (Democrat of Connecticut)**, chairman of the Senate Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee, **in the wake of criticism that the Bush Administration seemed to promote the coup, which ultimately failed.** **Dodd requested a detailed chronology of the course of events that led to the brief ouster of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez** and the response by U.S. officials, **including contacts** by embassy and State Department officials **with Venezuela's interim government and its supporters.**

In a July 29 statement, **Dodd said he requested the report "because questions surrounding this matter continued to be raised, and I believe a full and accurate accounting of administration actions would help put them to rest."** He added: "The IG has now issued his preliminary findings, but as I understand it, has not fully completed his review of recently acquired documents and other electronic information. I appreciate the IG's expeditious handling of this matter. I look forward to discussing the report and the classified annex with him."

Ervin said both the State Department and the U.S. Embassy **worked behind the scenes to persuade the interim government of Pedro Carmona to hold early elections**, and to legitimize its provisional rule by obtaining the sanction of the Venezuelan National Assembly and Supreme Court.

"When, contrary to U.S. advice, **the interim government dissolved the assembly and the court and took other undemocratic actions**, the Department worked through the OAS to condemn those steps and to restore democracy and constitutionality in Venezuela," the report said.

In response to Dodd's inquiry, the report said U.S. officials **during the six months preceding the coup urged the Chavez government to conduct itself in a democratic and constitutional fashion, and also urged Chavez's opponents to act within the limits of the constitution of Venezuela.**

"This policy was expressed orally in numerous meetings and occasional speeches and press statements throughout the period," the report said, adding that the policy was **"fully consistent with the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter."**

On the question of whether Chavez's opponents sought help from the U.S. Embassy or State Department officials for removing the Chavez government through undemocratic or unconstitutional means, "the answer is no," said the report. It added that U.S. officials consistently told Chavez's opponents that they were against any unlawful effort to remove or undermine the Chavez government.

Deputy State Department Spokesman Philip Reeker said in a July 29 briefing that the Inspector General's office interviewed for the report more than 80 officials from the Department, the embassy in Caracas, and other federal agencies represented there, as well as officials from the National Endowment for Democracy, which works to strengthen democracy in Venezuela.

Under U.S. law, the State Department's Inspector General is required to be an independent and objective overseer and "watchdog" with respect to Department operations and activities.

The full report is available on the State Department web site at <http://oig.state.gov/new/>. Following is the text of the report's executive summary:

(begin text)

Executive Summary

By letter dated May 3, 2002, Senator Christopher J. Dodd, Chairman of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked the Inspector General of the United States Department of State (Department) and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (OIG) **to conduct a review of U.S. policy and actions during the weekend of April 12-14, 2002, when Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez was briefly ousted from power, and the six-month period preceding that weekend.** OIG is empowered to conduct such a review pursuant to Sections 209(b)(5) and 209(g) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980.

Specifically, Senator Dodd **asked OIG to attempt to answer five questions.** The questions and our answers in brief follow:

1. **"What actions did Embassy Caracas and the Department of State take in response to the events of April 12-14?** Here, I request a detailed chronology of the course of events and the response by Embassy and Department officials, **including contacts between** Embassy and Department of officials and **the interim government and its supporters."**

Throughout the course of the weekend of April 12-14, Embassy Caracas and the Department worked to support democracy and constitutionality in Venezuela. Based on credible reports that (a) pro-Chávez supporters had fired on a huge crowd of peaceful Chávez opponents, killing some and wounding others; (b) the **Chávez government had attempted to keep the media from reporting on these developments;** and, bowing to the pressures, (c) **Chávez had fired his vice president and cabinet and then resigned,** the Department criticized **the Chávez government for using violent means to suppress peaceful demonstrators and for interfering with the press.** Both the Department and the embassy **worked behind the scenes to persuade the interim government to hold early elections and to legitimize its provisional rule by obtaining the sanction of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court.** **When, contrary to U.S. advice, the interim government dissolved the assembly and the court and took other undemocratic actions,** the Department worked through the Organization of American States (OAS) to condemn those steps and to restore democracy and constitutionality in Venezuela.

2. **"What was U.S. policy toward Venezuela during the six months preceding the weekend in question?** By what means was this policy expressed by the embassy and the Department? Were the actions of the U.S. government -- both in the six months before the weekend and during that weekend -- consistent with U.S. policy in support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter?"

In brief, the policy of the United States toward Venezuela during the operative period was support for democracy and constitutionality. The Department and the embassy urged the Chávez government to conduct itself in a democratic and constitutional fashion, and the Department and the embassy urged opponents of the Chávez government to act within the limits of the constitution of Venezuela. This policy was expressed orally in numerous meetings and occasional speeches and press statements throughout the period. The policy was fully consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), the OAS agreement designed to promote democracy and constitutionality in the Americas.

3. **"Did embassy or Department officials meet with opponents of the Chávez government in the six months preceding the weekend in question?** If so, with whom, **with what frequency**, and **at what level**? Were any such meetings consistent with normal embassy or Department practice?"

Embassy and Department officials **frequently met with individuals and groups opposed to President Chávez during the operative period.** These meetings took place at all levels of the Department and the embassy. Such meetings are consistent with normal embassy and Department practice throughout the world.

4. **"Did opponents of the Chávez government, if any, who met with embassy or Department officials request or seek the support of the U.S. government for actions aimed at removing or undermining that government?** If so, what was the response of embassy or Department officials to such requests? How were any such responses conveyed, orally or in writing?"

Taking the question to be whether, in any such meetings, **Chávez opponents sought help from the embassy or the Department for removing or undermining the Chávez government through undemocratic or unconstitutional means, the answer is no.** Chávez opponents would instead inform their U.S. interlocutors of their (or, more frequently, others') aims, intentions, and/or plans. **United States officials consistently responded to such declarations with statements opposing any effort to remove or undermine the Chávez government through undemocratic and unconstitutional means.** These responses were conveyed orally.

5. **"Were U.S. assistance programs in Venezuela during the six months prior to the weekend of April 12-14 -- either through "normal" assistance channels or through program funded by the National Endowment for Democracy -- carried out in a manner consistent with U.S. law and policy?"**

OIG found nothing to indicate that U.S. assistance programs in Venezuela, including those funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), were inconsistent with U.S. law or policy. While it is clear that NED, Department of Defense (DOD), and other U.S. assistance programs provided training, institution building, and other support to individuals and organizations understood to be actively involved in the brief ouster of the Chávez government, we found no evidence that this support directly contributed, or was intended to contribute, to that event.

(end text)