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NIGHTLEAD VISIT 2 CARACAS

THE POLITICIANS OF VENEZUELA HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOMINATED THE DEPUTY-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) TO ACCOMPANY THE FIRST LADY ON HER VISIT.

INFORMED SOURCES SAY THE OFFICIAL PRESENCE HERE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GENERAL VERNON WALTERS, AS MRS. NIXON'S INTERPRETER IS CONSIDERED A DIPLOMATIC BLUNDER.

MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION (AD) PARTY, WHOSE LEADER IS TAKING OVER AS PRESIDENT, ARE ANNOYED AT THE CHOICE BUT HAVE SO FAR LODGED NO COMPLAINT AT THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE, THE SOURCES SAID.

WALTERS HAS BEEN THE OFFICIAL INTERPRETER FOR THE NIXONS ON ALMOST ALL THEIR OVERSEAS VISITS, A U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID.

SECURITY IS EXPECTED TO BE TIGHT FOR MRS. NIXON'S VISIT HERE -- HER FIRST SINCE 1958 -- WHEN SHE AND THE THEN VICE-PRESIDENT WERE SPAT UPON, STONED AND NEARLY LYNCHED BY ANTI-AMERICAN CROWDS IN THE STREETS OF CARACAS.

WALTERS WAS ALSO WITH THEM ON THAT OCCASION.

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Comments

MOR/CDF

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency to the attached item from the news wire services.