**Pressure Counterplan Affirmative**

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**Glossary**

**Chavistas-** supporters of Hugo Chavez, former president of Venezuela

**Dissent-** The expression or holding of opinions at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially held.

**Empirically-** Verifiable or provable by means of observation or experiment

**Nicolas Maduro-** newly elected president of Venezuela

**No Solvency: Pressure Fails—Maduro**

**[ ] Status quo rhetoric prevents the counterplan from solving—more pressure only emboldens Maduro’s Anti-American stance and wrecks relations**

**Oppenheimer, foreign affairs columnist with The Miami Herald, 2013**

(Andres, “Andres Oppenheimer: Venezuela Vice President Maduro will raise anti-U.S. rhetoric — for now”; 3/6/13; http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/03/06/3270595/maduro-will-raise-anti-us-rhetoric.html)

On Tuesday, shortly before announcing Chávez’s cancer-related death, **Maduro** — the Venezuelan government’s candidate for elections expected within the next 30 days — suggested that the United States had “inoculated” Chávez’s with the cancer.¶ At the same time, he **expelled two U.S. diplomats from Venezuela**. **Maduro** was in full campaign mode when he made those claims, U.S. officials say. The vice president, a former bus driver and union leader who was designated by Chávez as his political heir, **needs to cast himself as a hard-line “anti-imperialist” leader both to keep the Chavista movement united, and to rally Venezuelans behind him against an imaginary U.S. threat,** they say.¶ The Obama administration has turned the other cheek on Maduro’s accusations. It has categorically denied having caused Chávez’s death, and called the charge “absurd.”¶ Interestingly, Maduro and the U.S. State Department’s top official in charge of Latin American affairs, Roberta Jacobson, had discussed improving bilateral relations during a telephone conversation as recently as late last year.¶ In a Nov. 21 telephone call initiated by Jacobson, Maduro had suggested restoring the two countries’ ambassadors. Jacobson, in turn, had proposed a step-by-step approach to upgrade relations, starting with counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism cooperation measures, the U.S. official said at the time.¶ On Wednesday, I asked Jacobson why she thinks Maduro made his claim earlier this week that the U.S. government had “inoculated’’ Chávez with cancer.¶ “We find it really unfortunate that at a time when we were, and are, seeking a more productive relationship with Venezuela, they use this kind of rhetoric publicly and expel two of our officials,” Jacobson said. “It’s disappointing. But we remain interested in having a productive relationship with Venezuela.”¶ Jacobson didn’t want to speculate on Maduro’s motives, but other well-placed Venezuela watchers in Washington see it is as an obvious electoral ploy.¶ Maduro, a former bus driver who is very close to Cuba’s military government, does not have Chávez’s charisma, and does not have a record to run on. And with Venezuela’s inflation and crime rates reaching record highs, his best hope to win the election is capitalizing on Chávez’s popularity, and showing that he is as tough on the Gringos as Chávez was, they say.¶ **“The harder days in U.S.-Venezuelan relations are not behind us,** but ahead of us,” **says Carl Meacham**, Americas Director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C., and until recently a senior analyst with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.¶ **“Maduro is shoring up political support within Chavismo**,” Meacham added. “**His charges against the United States and his expulsion of the two U.S. diplomats were his way of telling his followers, “I’m like Chávez.”** We can expect his rhetoric to get worse in coming weeks.”¶ My opinion: I agree that Maduro is likely to raise his “anti-imperialist’’ rhetoric during the campaign, but I wouldn’t be surprised if he resumes his amicable dialogue with the Obama administration afterward should he win the elections, as now seems likely.¶ Right now, **Maduro is following Chávez’s script of provoking confrontations and inventing domestic and foreign conspiracies**, so as to present himself as the protector of the fatherland and cast his political rivals as alleged U.S. stooges. It’s a script that Chávez followed for the past 14 years, and that worked well for him.

**No Solvency: Pressure Fails in the case of Venezuela**

**[ ] Venezuela won’t bow to pressure—South American alliances and international law prove our argument.**

**Daly, developing editor for NewsNetworkReport, 7-12-13**

(Marilyn, “South American countries unite against U.S. policies”; <http://www.examiner.com/article/south-american-countries-unite-against-u-s-policies>)

Reuter reports that **leaders from Venezuela**, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay and Bolivia **will be meeting today to discuss many issues of mutual concern**, including the alleged spying by the United States at the international level, possible asylum for Edward Snowden, and the detention of Bolivian President Evo Moralas last week in Europe, after he was denied access to travel airspace by several European countries. Morales was suspected of having Edward Snowden aboard his airplane, an allegation that ended up being false. Edward Snowden is wanted by the United States on suspicion of espionage and theft, and has been formally charged by the U.S. Department of Justice.¶ **The South American group meeting today is part of Mercosur, or the “Common Market of the South.”** Mercosur is a South American Trade Bloc. It includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and Venezuela, with five associate members: Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, who do not have access to all the cooperative benefits, but do receive tariff reduction in return for the same from participating countries. **Their mission is to promote free trade among the participating nations in goods and services.** Mercosur came out of the 1991 "Treaty of Asuncion" between South American nations, with hopes of creating a union similar to the European Union, uniting all of the South America countries in a cooperative economic bloc.¶ **Ever since the allegations that the United States’ National Security Agency (NSA) targeted many Latin American countries with spying programs, the leaders of some of these nations want clarification and details of the extent of the spying from U.S. officials.**¶ Edward Snowden is still presently delayed at a Russian Airport evaluating his options for asylum, with many nations not wanting to cooperate due to U.S. pressure. Nonetheless, Reuter further reports that Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua announced:¶ **"We believe that the international community must demand the right of all citizens of the world to request asylum: diplomatic, political, humanitarian, whatever you want to call it," "Venezuela is going to exercise its right under international law regardless of threats, regardless of retaliation, regardless of consequences,"**

**No Solvency: Maduro Says No**

**[ ] Maduro won’t give in to pressure—has to gain legitimacy through Chavismo policies**

**Grais-Targow, an associate in Eurasia Group's Latin America practice, 2013**

(Risa; “Maduro’s victory is the worst possible outcome for Venezuela’s economy”; April 15, 2013; http://qz.com/74567/maduros-victory-is-the-worst-possible-outcome-for-venezuelas-economy/)

Further complicating matters, Maduro begins his presidency in a very difficult economic context. The economy is plagued by sluggish economic growth (0.9% in 2013 according to local consultancy Ecoanalitica), high inflation (25% year-over-year in March), dollar and goods scarcity, stagnant oil production, and fiscal accounts that are in disarray. In this context, **Maduro will struggle to recover popularity.**¶ Consequently, **economic policy and political stability will likely suffer**. **Maduro will be a**n inherently **weak president**, **and will be under pressure to reverse social discontent, which means he is unlikely to make needed economic adjustments.** This means that foreign exchange and price controls will likely remain in place, and demands on state-run oil company PDVSA for financing will remain high, limiting the firm’s investment capacity. Moreover, **Maduro will be constrained in his ability to implement more pragmatic policies, as he will need to prove his revolutionary credentials in order to legitimize his role as heir to Chavez.** In this context, **Maduro will** likely **attempt to rally** his **support** base **by finding common enemies**. This means **he will probably have to take some tough actions**, **especially towards the private sector, such as further nationalizations** or more stringent controls.¶ In this context, political dynamics will likely deteriorate further, and rapidly, which will also worsen economic conditions, increasing the risk of political instability.

**No Solvency: Maduro Recognition**

**[ ] Failure to recognize Maduro guts solvency—seen as an act of belligerence**

**Christian Science Monitor, 2013**

(Christian Science Monitor; “Venezuela's Maduro still waiting on Washington's recognition”; http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2013/0517/Venezuela-s-Maduro-still-waiting-on-Washington-s-recognition)

More than a month after Venezuela’s contested presidential election, President Nicolás **Maduro’s narrow victory has yet to be recognized by the United States.** Refusing to legitimize the new premier while a partial recount of the vote is underway, **the US position has led to further political tensions in a relationship historically stressed under the leadership of** former President Hugo **Chávez**. ¶ A handful of countries, including Chile, Peru, and the US, have expressed concern over the democratic standards of the election, which Maduro won by a little more than 1 percent of the vote. Venezuela’s opposition party is calling for the results to be annulled, citing over 3,000 instances of election fraud, ranging from alleged multiple-voting in chavista-strongholds to polling booth intimidation.¶ “Obviously, **if there are huge irregularities we are going to have serious questions about the viability of that government,” said** Secretary of State John **Kerry** during a hearing of the US Foreign Affairs Committee following the announcement of President Maduro’s victory in April.¶ While **the US has pledged not to interfere with Venezuelan politics**, the refusal to recognize Maduro's presidency has left many to question what message the US is trying to send, and how – if at all – it will impact Venezuela post-Chávez.¶ “[The US isn’t] recognizing or failing to recognize,” says David Smilde, professor of sociology at the University of Georgia. “They’re just waiting. But **here in Venezuela that’s seen as an act of belligerence.”**

**Solvency Turn: Only Cooperation Solves**

**[ ] Any type of threat will harm relations—only cooperation solves**

**Venezuelan Embassy, 2013**

(“Calixto Ortega Designated as Chief of Venezuelan Embassy in Washington”; 4/24/2013; http://venezuela-us.org/2013/04/24/calixto-ortega-designated-as-chief-of-venezuelan-embassy-in-washington/)

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced Tuesday his decision to name Deputy Calixto Ortega as charge d’affaires for Venezuela in the United States.¶ “For some time I have been evaluating naming a new charge d’affaires at our Embassy in Washington and **I have decided to name Deputy Calixto Ortega as the new charge d’affaires so that he can increase dialogue with US society**,” Maduro said at a meeting with governors at Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas.¶ Dialogue in the US, he said, should include “universities, the academic world, the social world, unions, the African-American community, the Latino community, the Congress, senators, representatives, the economic world, economic and commercial sectors with which we have relationships.”¶ **“Calixto Ortega is a man with a lot of experience and knowledge of US society and we believe he can play an important role in bringing the truth about Venezuela [to the United States] to continue opening up understanding so that, sooner rather than later, there is respect for Latin America, the Caribbean, respect for the Bolivarian Revolution.”**¶ **The head of state said that the Venezuelan government wants to have the best possible relations** with all governments around the world, including **the United States**, **but on the basis of respect.**¶ **“There cannot be any type of threats,”** he said.¶ To the US government, **Maduro said: “If you want to have relations based on respect, conversations, cooperation, that’s welcome.”**