Excerpts contained in this document examine some of the other angles and perceptions around the various conflicts surrounding Venezuela. As you read it, focus specifically on the Colombian/Venezuelan conflict, knowing that it is a primary policy objective to avoid causing further strife in the area.

Other Departments and Agencies
Executive Summary
Central Intelligence Agency
Analysis of Latin American Opinions on Venezuela and Nuclear Energy
(Compiled from various sources)

- According to the Venezuelan government, other Latin American governments look positively on the option to develop nuclear energy facilities in the region.
- The governments of Ecuador and Peru have joined Venezuela in researching nuclear energy as a viable option.
- Present global scenario opens an opportunity for the region to carry out a progressive and ordered diversification of its current electrical power sources.
- Realistic goals must be set to control the inherent nuclear risks—safety, security and proliferation—which hasty expansion could exacerbate.

Department of Defense
Memo on Russian statements regarding Venezuela

At a recent NATO Ministerial meeting that included bilateral consultations with Russia, the Russian Defense Minister brought up Russia’s relations with Venezuela. He said that while significant progress was being made through arms sale and energy infrastructure support that Russia’s efforts would remain focused on economically beneficial arrangements. Russia, he said, did not fully trust Venezuela’s leadership and therefore no military training or assistance is being offered at this time.

Department of Energy
US Energy Information Administration
Independent Statistics and Analysis

- According to Oil and Gas Journal (OGJ) oil accounts for roughly a third of Venezuela’s GDP, around 80% of total exports, and more than half of the government operating revenues.
- Venezuela had net oil exports of 1.89 million barrels per day (bbl/d), the largest in the Western Hemisphere.
Sector Organization

- Venezuela nationalized its oil industry in the 1970s, creating Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. (PdVSA), the country's state-run oil and natural gas company and Venezuela's largest employer.

Crude Oil Production in 2009

- EIA estimates that Venezuela’s crude oil production averaged 2.2 million bbl/d in 2009, about 190,000 bbl/d lower than 2008 levels
**Defense Intelligence Agency**  
**Analysis: Trouble on the Colombia–Venezuela Border**  
(Compiled from various sources)

*In addition to floundering trade, deteriorating diplomatic ties between Colombia and Venezuela are exacerbating security risks at this fragile border*

- As rumors of an unlikely conventional large-scale war between Colombia and Venezuela continue to circulate, the casualties of a smaller, unconventional war at the border are already mounting. During the week of 3–10 June, at least 11 people died in drug-related violence in the Colombian city of Cúcuta and the surrounding area.

- Much of the Colombian-Venezuelan border has become a battlefield for rival drug gangs, paramilitary groups and their smaller successors, and members of Colombia’s leftist insurgency, FARC.

- The lines are constantly blurring, as former rivals are teaming up to control production and transportation of illicit narcotics. The changing alliances make up-to-date intelligence and information about the groups’ activity crucial in the fight to combat rising levels of insecurity on both sides of the border.

- As the week of 3 June demonstrated, the violence is not contained within a singular border. However, given the animosity between Bogotá and Caracas, arriving at any kind of cooperative agreement poses a number of challenges.

- The two nations have been mired in a political dogfight since the Colombian military’s March 2008 raid on Ecuadorian soil to attack FARC insurgents seeking sanctuary in Ecuador. The attack inflamed sensitivities over regional sovereignty. If Colombia would be willing to breach Ecuador’s borders, what would stop them from doing the same in Venezuela?

- The latest diplomatic tiff involves accusations against nearly 20 Colombian nationals accused of spying in Venezuela. The accusations prompted the Colombian government to issue a travel warning in April 2010 to its citizens, as each day, thousands of Colombians cross the border to work in Venezuela.

- Retribution, not dialogue, has characterized the recent Venezuela-Colombia relationship.
White House Press Release

Latin America and Caribbean Stability Pact (fictitious)
(modeled on Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe)

The United States strongly supports the newly signed Latin America and Caribbean Stability Pact. The US views this Pact as a significant step forward in democratic progress for the region. The implementation of the Pact will greatly enhance stability, security and strengthen democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The Latin America and Caribbean Stability Pact was adopted in San Fernando. In the founding document, more than 40 partner countries and organizations undertook to strengthen the region "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region."

The main objectives were: to ensure that the countries of the region and the international community take a regional strategic approach to infrastructure development based on co-financing and institutionalized partnerships including transport, energy and environment; to continue the development of sound and effective local democratic institutions fully trusted by the population and able to respond quickly to their needs through the provision of adequate services; and to foster a business climate conducive to investment, trade and employment through enhancing regional co-operation in policy development. The group modeled its objectives on the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. Cuba was extended an offer to join the pact though it was officially excluded from the Summit and therefore could not vote on the adoption of the pact. It was agreed that only signatories of the Pact could make motions regarding additional members or to suspend a country.

While not part of the region covered under the pact, the United States is an invited observer of the Pact and remains an integral partner in this effort. The US will participate in all subcommittees including the “Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Cooperation;” the “Subcommittee on Technological Advancement;” the Subcommittee on Promoting regional Economic Growth” and the Subcommittee on Agricultural Development.”