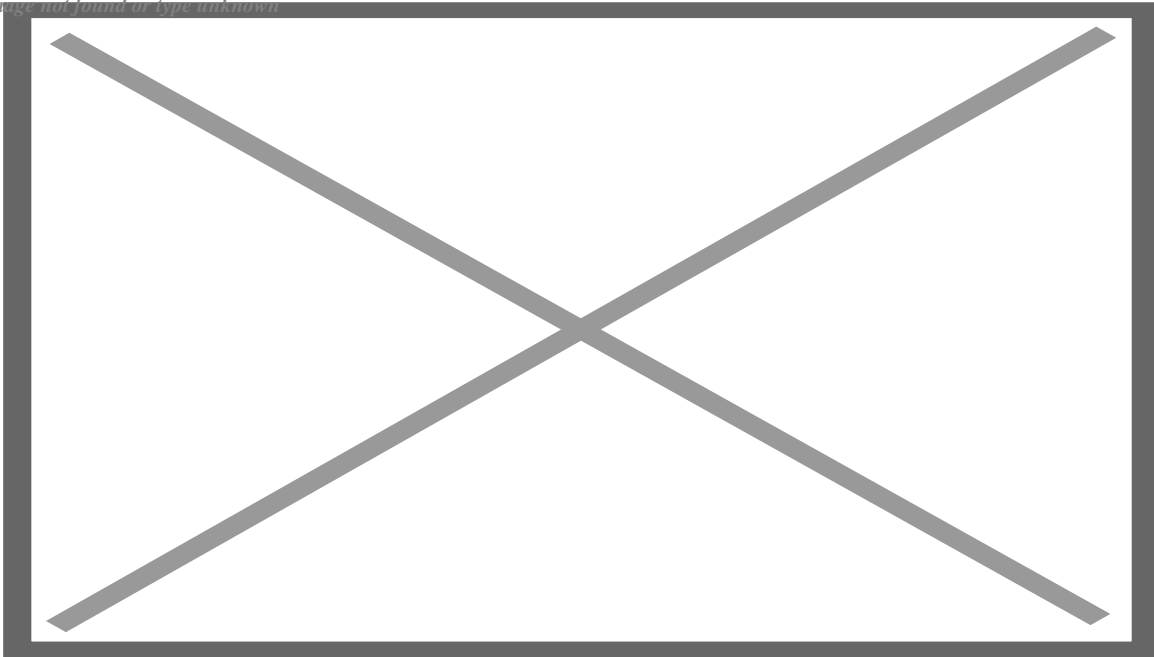


# *U.S. espionage against Venezuelan leaders denounced*

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Caracas, February 1 (RHC)-- U.S. media revealed Thursday that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) infiltrated agents in Venezuela to secretly record and build false drug trafficking cases against Venezuelan leaders.

According to the U.S. source, he obtained a 15-page memo from 2018 on the so-called "Operation Money Badger," which targeted a dozen officials, including Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

"It is necessary to carry out this operation unilaterally and without notifying the Venezuelan authorities," reads the document revealed about the operation, which also had among its targets diplomat Alex Saab.

The former DEA agent, Wes Tabor, declared to the U.S. media that, although Washington does not like to say it publicly, "we are, de facto, the world's police."

For their part, the DEA and the U.S. Department of Justice refused to answer the media's questions about this unilateral operation, which was carried out in violation of the norms established in international law.

The revelation comes in a context tinged by the upcoming presidential elections in Venezuela, while President Maduro denounced the destabilizing plans of the opposition the day before.

This week, the spokesman of the U.S. State Department, Matthew Miller, announced that Washington "has revoked sanctions relief for the Venezuelan gold sector" after the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) announced the disqualification of certain opposition candidates for the upcoming elections.

Based on this, the Venezuelan Government emphasized that these US actions constitute "an ultimatum against the entire Venezuelan society" and a way to impose a coup d'état through the disregard of the institutions of the Republic.

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