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**Policy Advisory No. 2**

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November 13, 2020

Michelle Ma

Vice Presidential Candidate

RE: Crisis in Venezuela

Dear Ms. Reeves:

I am writing to you in regard to the events happening in Venezuela. As you may know, Venezuela has been in trouble for decades. Since their democracy was corrupted in the late 1900s, their economy has been on a severe decline. The country is in ruins, violence and disease ran rampant, and the majority of citizens are in severe poverty. There is barely any running water or electricity, and many Venezuelans have fled the country. All of this is mostly because of Venezuela’s government, which is currently led by Nicolas Maduro. Venezuela’s government poorly manages the country and oppresses the power of the people. The democracy that they used to have has been buried.

Many may say we should do something to remove Maduro from power. They say we should send troops to Venezuela. However, I strongly advise you, if you become president, to stay out of Venezuela. I think it would do more harm than good to intervene. It would harm the United States and Venezuela.

Just think of past events. We had a “war on terror” in Saudi Arabia and many years before, a war in Vietnam. We went into Saudi Arabia to eliminate terror. We went into Vietnam to stop the spread of communism. Did we accomplish our goals in either wars? Sure, we took out Saddam Hussein, but did we free the world from terrorism? Did we even free the Iraqi people? Vietnam still fell to Communism, so we didn’t do anything there. What evidence do we have that proves that we will not have the same result in Venezuela?

And consider the costs for such wars. Wars are not cheap. The Vietnam War lasted almost twenty years, eating away at our budget. The wars in the Middle East have lasted for decades. And we are still there today! Imagine the cost for weapons, vehicles, military training, and the like. Not to mention the lives lost. Millions of American soldiers and innocent civilians were killed. If we intervene with violence in Venezuela, how many civilians would be spared?

And think of how a war with Venezuela will impact Americans at home. Protests rang from the mouths of Americans during the Vietnam War. America was torn in two: pro-war and anti-war. Sentiment against Muslims has resulted from the U.S.’s war on terror, causing discrimination against American Muslims. Seeing the country as divided as it is, do we really want to risk another thing to fight about?

And in general, how many countries have actually wanted the United States to stick its nose in their problems? Surely the Venezuelan people do not want a huge, imperialist-looking country to barge in. If we really mess up Venezuela instead of fixing it, the Venezuelan people will not appreciate it. All the countries we have had proxy wars with have never really forgiven us for them. We still do not have good relationships with those countries (North Korea, Vietnam, etc.). Who is to say that Venezuela will forgive us? We might not even be able to trade with them afterward.

I hope these reasons sit with you, Ms. Reeves. It is simply not worth intervention. It would hurt everyone involved. I say the best solution is to continue showing our support for the efforts of the Venezuelan people. We should continue to send humanitarian aid but at a distance. We should let the Venezuelan settle this for themselves.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ma