

Venezuela may have sent more cash to Argentina

The Miami Herald
Dec. 19, 2007

The Venezuelan government allegedly sent other amounts of cash to the campaign of Argentina's president, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, besides the almost \$800,000 confiscated at the Buenos Aires airport from an accused Key Biscayne bagman, El Nuevo Herald reports.

The reference is found in a U.S. government transcript of the case in a Dec. 12 hearing in Miami federal court in which five suspects are accused of serving as unregistered agents of the Venezuelan government. Four have been arrested.

Tom Mulvihill, the U.S. prosecutor, noted that the alleged bagman, Guido Alejandro Antonini Wilson, a dual Venezuelan and U.S. citizen, was told by two Venezuelan business partners and friends of his "that additional funds had been provided in that campaign and that both the Venezuelan and the Argentine governments were interested in him basically agreeing to go along with keeping the role of Venezuela in that funding quiet."

The two Venezuelan businessmen -- Franklin Durán and Carlos Kauffmann -- first told Antonini after he returned to South Florida that the money he was carrying in a suitcase was destined for Fernández's campaign. Argentine authorities confiscated the money at the airport.