

## FERNANDO OCHOA ANTICH

### Foreign Minister

General Fernando Ochoa Antich, who was born in Caracas in September 1934, is a career army officer who has earned his promotion steadily since he became a Second Lieutenant in 1962.

He was appointed Defence Minister in June 1991. (Venezuela Defence Ministers are always drawn from the most senior ranks of the armed forces, on a rotational basis between the services: the current incumbent is an air force general.) In this position, he rose to high national prominence by his wise and steady handling of the February 1992 attempted military coup and its aftermath. His loyalty to President Pérez was confirmed at all times, and he also worked hard to re-establish control and unity within the severely troubled Armed Forces.

The appointment of Ochoa Antich by CAP as foreign minister in June 1992 was a surprise, but was widely praised. He has been a regular minister, not only with his colleagues on the international stage, but within the ministry, particularly in as much as he has introduced some reforms in the structure and personnel of the Venezuelan foreign service.

## POLITICAL PROFILES

He speaks a little English and fluent French.

He and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mrs. McCreath, have a good and friendly personal relationship.