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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

SUBJECT Argentine Political Matters

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1. The Argentine Government is planning to spend a considerable sum of money to build up a student organization to be known as the Confederacion General Universitaria. At present the organization is being developed along the lines of the Gruppo Universitario Fascista, created in Italy during the regime of Mussolini. The Confederacion will ostensibly be a student organization, but in reality it will be controlled by the Federal Police, the Oficina de Control del Estado (OCE), and the Peronista Party. Through this organization the government hopes to detect leftists and other opposition elements, and otherwise exercise a close watch of Argentine youth.

2. Last week the OCE recommended to Peron that the federal government should intervene in the provinces of La Rioja, Salta, Santa Fe, and Buenos Aires. No motive was reported by source, other than that the recommendation is related to the 1952 presidential elections.

3. The nationalists are still the dominant influence in control of the government, and may continue to be during 1951. Another element of opposition is in financial and industrial circles, where business is becoming more and more resentful of government controls.

4. Peron occasionally writes the editorial page in the government newspaper Democracia under the pseudonym of "Descartes." This pseudonym is also used by other writers. Democracia is often bitterly anti-United States.

5. General Juan Pistarini, Minister of Public Works, reportedly has stated that he considers good relations between the United States and Argentina to be of paramount importance, and that he had worked hard to improve such a relationship. Pistarini recently has lost considerable influence in Peron's cabinet.

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