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18 OCT 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
THROUGH: Assistant Director for Research and Reports
SUBJECT: Report of Trip by Chief, Domestic Procurement
Section, Procurement Branch, Map Library Division, ORR

1. Purpose of Trip:

The procurement of maps and related geographic publications from the countries visited had steadily fallen off since a regularly assigned State Department Geographic Attaché covered the area in 1949-51. In order that gaps in the holdings of the map libraries in Washington might be filled, that existing exchanges might be revitalized, and new contacts made in an attempt to insure a continuing flow of this material into Washington, a special mission to Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil was undertaken.

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no difficulty was experienced. Procurement activity in Brazil was directed primarily toward targets in the major state capitals.

2. Activities:

The period 1-4 March was spent in Santiago; 4-29 March in Buenos Aires; 29 March-8 April in Montevideo; and 8 April-21 June in Brazil, with periods of three days to two weeks in Porto Alegre, Florianopolis, Curitiba, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza, and Belem.

A stop at the Inter-American Geodetic Survey headquarters in Panama was made en route to Santiago to discuss procurement activities of that organization and to coordinate plans for procurement in those countries visited in which IAGS has missions.

In all countries visited, all contacts and procurement activities were carried on from State Department missions with the advice and assistance of Foreign Service personnel and the military attachés. An attempt was made, where possible, to assign follow-up responsibility to these regularly assigned field personnel. Cooperation from mission personnel was in all cases outstanding.

Contacts were made with federal, state, and municipal employees, and with officials of mapping companies and various other commercial

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agencies dealing with power, communications, and research. These contacts were made at all levels, depending on protocol and existing circumstances, from chiefs of military mapping agencies (in all countries visited) and "sub-cabinet" officials in federal and state governments, to "working level" personnel. Reports on over 150 of these contacts were submitted to the Special Assistant for Maps for distribution to interested persons in CIA and other agencies. All material procured was itemized on transmittal lists. Approximately 65 letters and 60 transmittals covered these activities.

Approximately 4,100 map sheets and 600 publications were procured and forwarded to Washington for the Special Assistant for Maps, Department of State, and for other agencies.

3. Problems:

The only problem encountered was in attempting to coordinate procurement activities with IAGS personnel. In Brazil, this Agency maintains liaison with the major federal mapping agencies in furtherance of its geodetic activities. In response to directives from the IAGS HQ in Panama, map procurement from these agencies has been included in their responsibilities. Although this procurement is designed to reflect the interests of other U.S. Government agencies, it was carried out with complete disregard for previously established map exchange arrangements made in behalf of the Department of State. This situation existed in Chile also. Duplication of requirements was thus frequent and embarrassing.

4. Commitments:

Commitments for the provision of maps, publications, and other material from the U.S. were made to scores of persons and organizations in exchange for items procured. These commitments are being systematically met by the Special Assistant for Maps. No commitments were made in the name of CIA.

5. Recommendations:

The major recommendation proposed from the field was that the responsibility for map procurement in Latin America be assigned to a Geographic Attaché on a full-time basis. Since that time, this has been accomplished. Assignment of a fully qualified, well-briefed person to this job is the only assurance of continuing procurement of maximum effectiveness. The job cannot be done on a part-time basis by Embassy employees, nor can it be done by IAGS personnel. In this connection, it was observed that there is a general lack of appreciation on the part of Foreign Service employees of the need for maps by intelligence personnel. The responsibility for map procurement is almost invariably assigned at the clerical level. In spite of Foreign Service directives,

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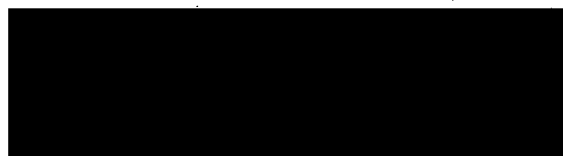
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practically no spontaneous collection was being undertaken, and there was a general lack of knowledge of the sources and uses of maps. In many missions, maps were discovered which had been collected accidentally, or incidentally, and had not been forwarded to Washington. It is believed that this deficiency could be partially overcome if newly assigned, and reassigned, Foreign Service personnel could have a briefing in the Map Library Division, including a short discussion with the Procurement Branch Area Desk Officers.

Many proposals revolving about the utilization of IAGS personnel in map procurement have been put forth in recent years. Observations during this trip in Chile and Brazil point out the inadequacies of this measure: a. IAGS officers have limited contacts outside one or two major mapping agencies in each country; b. other and more important responsibilities of these officers consume all of their time; c. they are not trained in procurement, nor are they familiar with the requirements of the Washington agencies. In view of the above, it is felt that this organization should not be burdened with the responsibility for map procurement in the area, nor should their operational work with mapping agencies interfere with existing map exchanges.

6. General Comments:

It is believed that a mission of this sort is invaluable experience for any person involved in headquarters support of field procurement activities. In addition to the job which was accomplished in procurement, this reporter has considerably added to his understanding of the problems and machinery of field collection, and is thereby better qualified to carry out the duties of Deputy Branch Chief in the Procurement Branch, D/GL.



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