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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

The Security Situation in Uruguay

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
12 April 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Security Situation in Uruguay
(Situation Report Number 35)

1. No new information has been received that would change the basic conclusion reached in Special National Intelligence Estimate 98-67, SECURITY CONDITIONS IN URUGUAY, 23 March 1967, and those additional judgments set forth in paragraph 1 of our 10 April supplement to Situation Report number 33.

2. Uruguayan security officials began to put their security plans to the test yesterday as Punta del Este filled with presidential delegations. Security at Carrasco airport near Montevideo was good during presidential flight arrivals and departures, although it was relaxed somewhat between times. There were no incidents when President Johnson arrived, although one movie cameraman was seen operating in an area supposedly denied to the press. The Punta del Este area itself was quiet and free of security problems during the day, although one individual who was without proper credentials was arrested at the San Rafael Hotel. He had reached the inner security zone apparently without being challenged.

3. On 10 April an official of the Communist Party of Uruguay said that the party would encourage young activists to stage antisummit "lightning demonstrations" in Montevideo and to break windows and throw tar bombs at US properties there. The beginning of the campaign was to coincide with President Johnson's arrival in Uruguay. Several

small demonstrations were staged in the capital late on 11 April and may have been part of such a campaign. The same official said that the Communists expected that about 150,000 Uruguayan workers would participate in the "general strike" on 12 April. He admitted the number would be only about one-quarter of those who were involved in the last general strike. The official's predictions seem overly optimistic in view of a noticeable increase in apathy among the Communist rank and file about continuing participation in the antisummit campaign.

4. Two student demonstrations occurred in downtown Montevideo yesterday. One of these was an anti-Communist demonstration and was orderly; the other was a prolonged demonstration staged by leftist students at the university which involved rock-throwing, police retaliation with tear gas, and a virtual siege of the university building where the students barricaded themselves.

5. The naval patrol around Punta del Este has demonstrated its capability to turn away unauthorized fishing boats; one boat was turned back yesterday without incident.

6. According to two Uruguayan students, a small activist group within the pro-Castro Uruguayan Revolutionary Movement (MRO) is planning to assassinate President Johnson during his stay in Punta del Este. The assassination plan calls for an MRO employee of the San Rafael Hotel to give his documentation and security pass to the would-be assassin, who would then have access to the hotel. The students implicated a classmate, Ricardo Gomez Puente, in the plot. Gomez has been arrested but has denied to the Uruguayan police that he has ever been a member of the MRO and claims that the story is a complete fabrication. He did admit, however, that he was an inactive member of an Uruguayan Communist youth organization. The investigation is continuing.

7. Elsewhere, Peruvian Communist students at Lima's San Marcos University reportedly are planning

acts of terrorism to protest the summit meeting. The plans allegedly include demonstrating, distributing propaganda, and throwing home-made bombs against the US Embassy and US-owned commercial establishments. The Peruvian Investigations Police (PIP) have been placed on alert until President Belaunde returns. PIP personnel have also been posted near the US Embassy and other likely targets of the demonstrators. At 9:00 PM EST, 10 April, a bomb was thrown against the private home next door to the house of a US Embassy official in Lima. Leaflets found at the scene stated that the act was directed against "US aggression in Vietnam" and against the summit conference.

The Security Situation in Surinam

8. Dutch troops are to be included in the guard force at Zanderij airport, and will be responsible for guarding the half of the airfield's perimeter which faces the jungle--considered by Surinamese and US officials to be the most difficult terrain to guard. Surinamese police will guard the remainder of the perimeter.

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