

10 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
THROUGH: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: Evaluation of CIA/RR-G-20, The International Boundaries of Latin America

1. Prior to this report, no comprehensive and up-to-date study has been available on the international boundaries of the 20 Latin American Republics and 4 mainland Possessions. It has been difficult to ascertain quickly the extent of settled or unsettled boundary segments, the nature of the problems in boundary disputes, or the amount and kind of progress that has been made toward settlement. U.S. mapping agencies have often had a confusing time depicting boundaries because of the variations appearing on different sources with little definitive data at hand to help resolve the differences.

2. This report considers each of the 37 international boundaries in Latin America (Brazil alone is bordered by 10 different countries) under four main headings. Current status of each boundary is described in four categories - boundaries that are demarcated; delimited (settled but not marked); undefined; and in dispute. Problem areas are defined and described. Descriptions of boundaries that are demarcated and delimited are quoted from the legal documents establishing them. Maps depicting boundary alignments are cited. Thus a reader may quickly locate the facts pertaining to a particular question.

3. Data in the report were compiled from documents and maps in the libraries in Washington as well as from material supplied in response to instructions sent to the field.

4. A map, Latin America - Status of Boundaries, is included at the end of the report showing the status of boundaries as discussed in the text. This is a complete revision with more detailed treatment of a map produced by CIA in 1947. Although the revision was initially requested by the Inter-American Geodetic Survey, several other offices learned of the project and their requirements necessitated extending the work to include the textual material as well.

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Chief, Geography Division

Attachment:
CIA/RR-G-20