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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

122859

SUBJECT: Argentina/Chile

DATE: 25X1A6a

TOPIC: Argentine Government Attitude Towards Communism

INFO. [REDACTED]

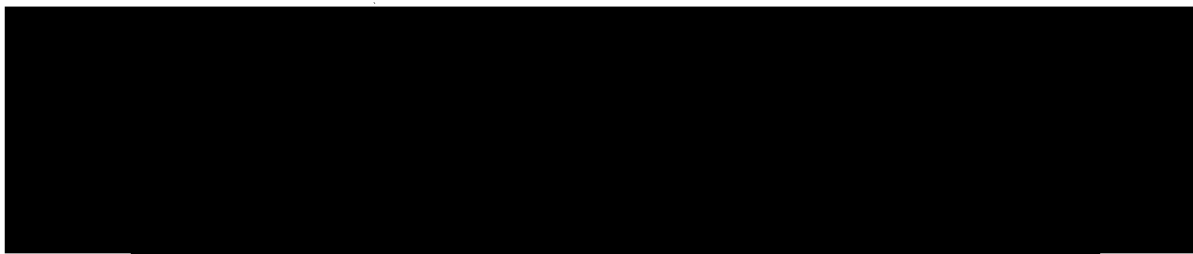
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DIST. 30 October 1947

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ICM [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT



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[REDACTED] the Government probably will not take any decided anti-Communist measures until after the March 1948 congressional elections.

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Government leaders believe that complete labor support is necessary to ensure winning enough of the approximately 80 seats to be contested, or the Government may lose its majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The Government fears that strong anti-Communist measures taken before the March 1948 elections may result in the loss of a decisive block of labor votes.

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[REDACTED] believe that President Peron's policy with regard to the Communist situation is as follows:

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- a. To publicly accuse the Communists of being the cause of most of the trouble encountered in carrying out the Presidential Five Year Plan;
- b. To give unofficial assurance to Communist leaders that no drastic steps will be taken against Communism in Argentina as long as the Communists continue to support publicly the Five Year Plan and make no attempt to hinder production;
- c. To exert pressure on the labor unions through the Secretariat of Labor and Welfare to purge the Communist leaders and sympathizers;
- d. To order, secretly, intense anti-Communist police training and reorganization in preparation for the time when a showdown with the Communists becomes necessary.

The majority of the Communist-dominated labor unions in Argentina were disbanded following President Peron's February 1946 electoral victory over the Communist-supported Union Democrata (Democratic Union). The members of these Communist unions were permitted to join the different pro-Peron and Government-controlled labor unions. Recently the inspectors of the Secretariat of Labor and Welfare, reportedly alarmed at the great success achieved by the Communists in obtaining control of the labor unions which they were permitted to join, are said to have informed the President that the Communists are now in a position to lower Argentine factory production by 45 per cent.

CLASSIFICATION

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[redacted] points out that the Argentine government has made no official declaration as yet concerning the Chilean accusations of Yugoslav espionage activities in Chile and Argentina. It is said that the Argentine authorities believe Chile acted too hastily and put Argentina on the spot without previous consultation.

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[redacted] The sources of the above report are in agreement that Argentina will take drastic anti-Communist measures and may go so far as to declare illegal the Argentine Communist Party. They would prefer postponing such measures, however, until after the March 1948 elections. [redacted]

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[redacted] are convinced also that the Argentine police authorities would gladly collaborate, even extra-officially, with the police of any other country engaged in an anti-Communist campaign. [redacted]

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