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COUNTRY Argentina

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 1 July 1948

SUBJECT Anti-

Anti-Communist Campaign of Argentine Government

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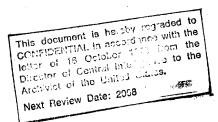
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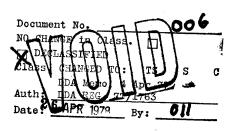
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO

- 1. The Argentine Government plans to continue deportations of troublescene foreign Communists and labor agitators. Although no recent deportations have been publicized, a deportation order for "subversive activities within the Argentine labor movement" exists against seven individuals who have resided a number of years in Argentina. These seven have been classed as Russians, though they may actually be Ukrainians and/or Eyelorussians.
- 2. In attempting to curb the activities of labor agitators and to intimidate the more aggressive anti-government labor elements, the Federal Police have in recent weeks "kidnapped" several suspected Communist troublemakers. Members of various labor unions have been arrested, held incommunicado for a few days, frequently tortured, and then released.
- 3. One such individual arrested on 22 May and subsequently released was Juan B. Espel, a labor leader among the oil workers of the strategic Comodoro Rivadavia area. Espel's arrest followed a series of incidents in Comodoro Rivadavia in which sabotage was suspected. Oil machinery was found damaged and tools were missing. Ten other individuals have recently been arrested in this area as a result of the government's efforts to curb labor unrest, which is believed to be Communist-inspired. Additional Federal Police have now been assigned to the area.
- 4. Governor Mercante has recently issued orders to the Buenos Aires Provincial Police to accelerate their anti-Communist activities and to coordinate their work with that of the Coordinacion Federal section of the Federal Police. Accordingly, the Provincial Police have begun cataloguing all suspected Communists.





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