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INFORMATION REPORT

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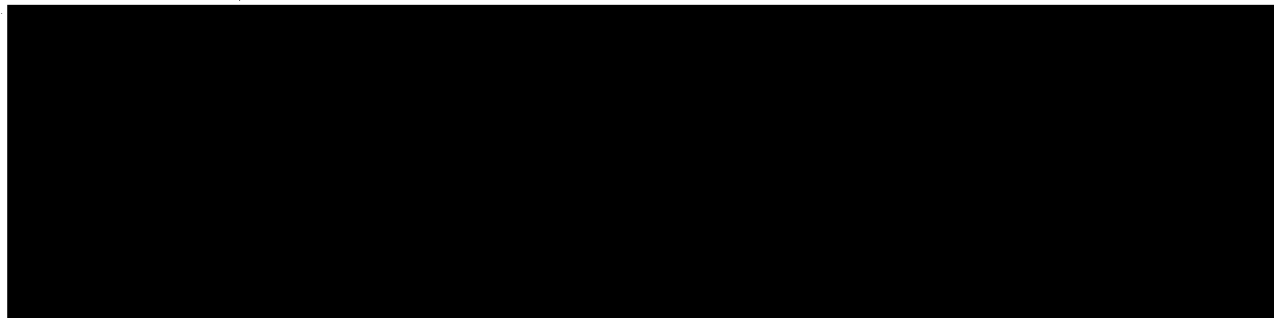
COUNTRY Chile/Argentina  
SUBJECT Analysis of Pro-Argentine Bias of Chilean Military  
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



1. The attached document is a translation from Spanish of a study prepared by an unidentified Chilean army officer in the Ministry of National Defense for President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla and for the guidance of the Director General of Investigaciones.
2. Although the document is of a historical nature, it is believed that it is of value in view of the subject matter and since the historical information in question may not otherwise be known or available. This study is considered particularly interesting because it serves to elucidate the paradox which finds the Chilean armed forces and anti-United States nationalists pro-Argentine while the general populace is bitterly anti-Argentine and even fearful of Argentina. This document is for the most part considered very reliable and surprisingly objective for a Chilean army officer.
3. It is believed that this report will help to clarify the activities of Carlos Ibanez del Campo and Ramon Vergara Montero, who have been the subject of numerous reports covering this subject in the past.

"America First" and "The Silver Star Group"

Activities of Militarists, Peronistas and Ibanistas

- a. To understand the conspiratorial activities of high-ranking officers of the armed forces of Chile, it is necessary to turn back to 1935 when this movement was born during the course of a series of lectures on the subject "Chile in America" held in the War Academy. These lectures were given in June 1935 by Chilean intellectuals of certain local renown and the first of the series was by Dr. Joselin de la Haza, a lawyer who later became Sub-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Relations.
- b. In the first lecture, the geographic and topographic situation of Chile was discussed. De la Haza pointed out that, because of its long coast-line and limited arable land, Chile should become an essentially maritime nation. The mineral wealth of Chile, the military tradition of the people, and the ethnic composition of the population were held up as advantageous factors in converting Chile into a leader in South America and the master of the western

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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seaboard of this continent. Close friendship and collaboration with Argentina was stressed as a necessity and it was pointed out that, between them, Argentina and Chile could exercise a dominating influence over South America and its sea approaches. De la Maza also stressed that the time was ripe for implementing this geopolitical plan since Germany, in the West, and Japan, in the East, were preparing for their inevitable war against the Anglo-American bloc.

- c. This new, bold, and chauvinistic thesis was enthusiastically accepted by the officers present because of its emotional appeal and impact. De la Maza subsequently gave three more lectures of the same general type in the War Academy.
- d. The ideas of de la Maza, as frequently happens with such concepts, did not fall on barren ground and he was soon besieged by officers of the Armed Forces who were anxious to hear more about his "Andean political policy". De la Maza subsequently prepared a series of brief memoranda which were distributed among the new converts to this Americanistic doctrine which advocated a romantically sentimental type of South American unity of a basically anti-Yankee and anti-imperialistic nature. The motto adopted by de la Maza was: "A South America politically and militarily united against rapacious and imperialistic North America". De la Maza also stressed that civilian governments, composed of demagogic, self-seeking political parties, could not carry out this plan and, therefore, it would be necessary for the military to overthrow the civilian governments and seize power.
- e. The proselyting campaign in favor of these ideas was spearheaded by Ramon Vergara Montero, Colonel Ramon Alvarez Goldsack, and Aristides Vasquez Ravinet, now a general and the commander of the Third Division. A series of lectures on this subject were also given in the different Masonic lodges which feverishly supported these ideas. Even after the Masonic schism of 1936, caused by purely internal differences, a great number of influential Masons continued working to implement the ideas of de la Maza.
- f. As early as 1936, Colonel (now General) Juan Domingo Peron received copies of the memoranda prepared by de la Maza, and enthusiastically accepted the latter's ideas.
- g. With the election of Pedro Aguirre Cerda to the Presidency of Chile, Alvarez Goldsack again took an active part in propagating the ideas of de la Maza and, subsequent to the election of President Juan Antonio Rios Morales, he formed the secret military lodge known as Grupo de Oficiales Selectos (GOS). This lodge was nationalist, pro-Nazi, and pro-Argentine in nature.
- h. President Rios Morales, meanwhile, appointed de la Maza as Sub-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and, from this position, the latter continued to prepare memoranda explaining his geopolitical views. These memoranda were sent to Peron through the intermediary of (fnu) Sepulveda and Fernando Orrego who, at that time, were attached to the Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires. Peron, enthusiastic over these concepts, wrote several congratulatory letters to de la Maza and stated that he, an Americanist and an Argentine, had long shared such beliefs.
- i. Though the GOS was subsequently scuttled by President Rios Morales and though de la Maza died in 1945, these geopolitical concepts continued to have wide acceptance among the younger officers. These officers, now of higher rank, continue to favor these concepts and have formed a group with the name and motto of "Chile First" (Chile Primero). Their counterpart group in the Navy is the "Silver Star Group" (Grupo de las Estrellas de Plata -- the five pointed stars signifying the five possibilities of obtaining the desired victory for Chile and America).

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- j. These groups in the Armed Forces keep informed of all political activities and every act of Congress is held up as an example of the failure of the present government. There is much talk about the submission of Chile to North American domination while the Peron government of Argentina is held up as honest, patriotic, and sovereign. These officers maintain that only a military government is capable of ending the economic misery of Chile and its subservience to the United States. General Humberto Lucu Iñeza, who is on good terms with General Ibanez del Campo, is mentioned as being the type of man needed to preside over such a government.
- k. A pamphlet titled The Mission of a "Friend" of Chile was recently circulated throughout the Armed Forces and referred to the gross and insolent attitude of President Truman's envoy, Mr. E. Miller, who, during a cabinet meeting, allegedly demanded that the Chilean peso be devaluated to between 65 and 75 pesos per dollar because, he stated, this was the only way in which the United States could maintain favorable trade with Chile. The pamphlet in question also criticized the manner in which President Gonzalez Videla and his Ministers accepted Miller's insolence. It makes no difference whether or not the charges made in the pamphlet are true but a trustworthy source asserts that this news spread like wildfire throughout the army, navy, air force, and even reached a small group of the Carabineros.
- l. All this, however, is not only the work of that group which desires an understanding with Argentina. The supporters of General Carlos Ibanez del Campo are also conspiring while Jaime Larrain Garcia Moreno and Ibanez del Campo visit the north and south of the country. The opposition political parties claim that the government will collapse by itself within a short time. They boast of knowing all that occurs in government circles and of having tapped the telephone of the President himself. Just how much truth there is in all this is hard to say but an atmosphere favorable to revolutionary conspiracy is clearly evident. Advantage is taken of the prevailing unrest by the opposition parties, by the Communists, and by those groups in the armed forces which, kept well-informed from Buenos Aires by Ramon Vergara Montero and retired General Jorge Berguno Meneses and under the pretext of lauding the statesmanship of Peron, are preparing the overthrow of the present Chilean government.
- m. Perhaps this report is unduly pessimistic but it is the result of unprejudiced observations of these conspiratorial activities. Moreover, the recent events in Bolivia, in Bogota, and in Peru demonstrate the reality of the motto "America First" which can only be implemented through the establishment of military governments.

23 December 1949

Observer  
(Unsigned)

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