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18 August 1980

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 17/80)

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## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

GRENADA'S BISHOP STRESSES FRIENDSHIP WITH CUBA ON MONCADA ANNIVERSARY

PA012123 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0210 GMT 31 Jul 80

[Article by Earl Bousquet]

[Text] St. Georges, 30 Jul (PL)--Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop stressed the historic meaning of the attack on Moncada Headquarters and the importance for the Latin American and Caribbean peoples of commemorating its 27th anniversary.

According to Bishop, the Moncada feat has retained its significance now that the peoples of the region are intent on achieving unity in the struggle to build their own destinies, particularly Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada.

Our peoples, he said, are engaged in the task of constructing a new society while confronting the destabilizing campaigns launched by the area's reactionary forces, encouraged by led by the United States.

He noted that in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada the masses participate in the conduct of state affairs and are prepared to defend their countries and their revolutions because, he said, they have the weapons necessary to confront any enemy either from within or without.

Bishop spoke here this weekend at an event held to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Headquarters. Other speakers included Cuban Ambassador to Grenada Julian Torres Rizo and outstanding Caribbean intellectual C.L.R. James.

The prime minister stressed that the world's most reactionary forces are currently intensifying a campaign against the Cuban, Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutionary processes.

That ill-intentioned propaganda, he said, has only managed to increasingly expand and strengthen unity among our peoples and make our determination to fight our common enemy, U.S. imperialism, even firmer.

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Commenting on the Moncada feat, he said it represents a moment of singular importance in the history of the Cuban people, who have engaged in many other battles without stopping their overall development.

Proof of this, he added, is the fact that with only 10 million people, Cuba has more doctors working in internationalist missions than the World Health Organization does.

Referring to Grenadian-Cuban relations, Bishop said that one of the lessons his people have learned from the Cuban people is their capacity to participate in defense tasks, thus guaranteeing the permanence of the revolutionary process.

The strength of our revolutions is particularly important for the Caribbean, where U.S. imperialism has not stopped carrying out hostile activities aimed at destroying the progressive movements in the area, he added.

An example of this, he went on, is the current situation in Jamaica, a small Caribbean nation which is a target of local reaction in collusion with U.S. agents opposed to the path of positive changes taken by Prime Minister Michael Manley's government.

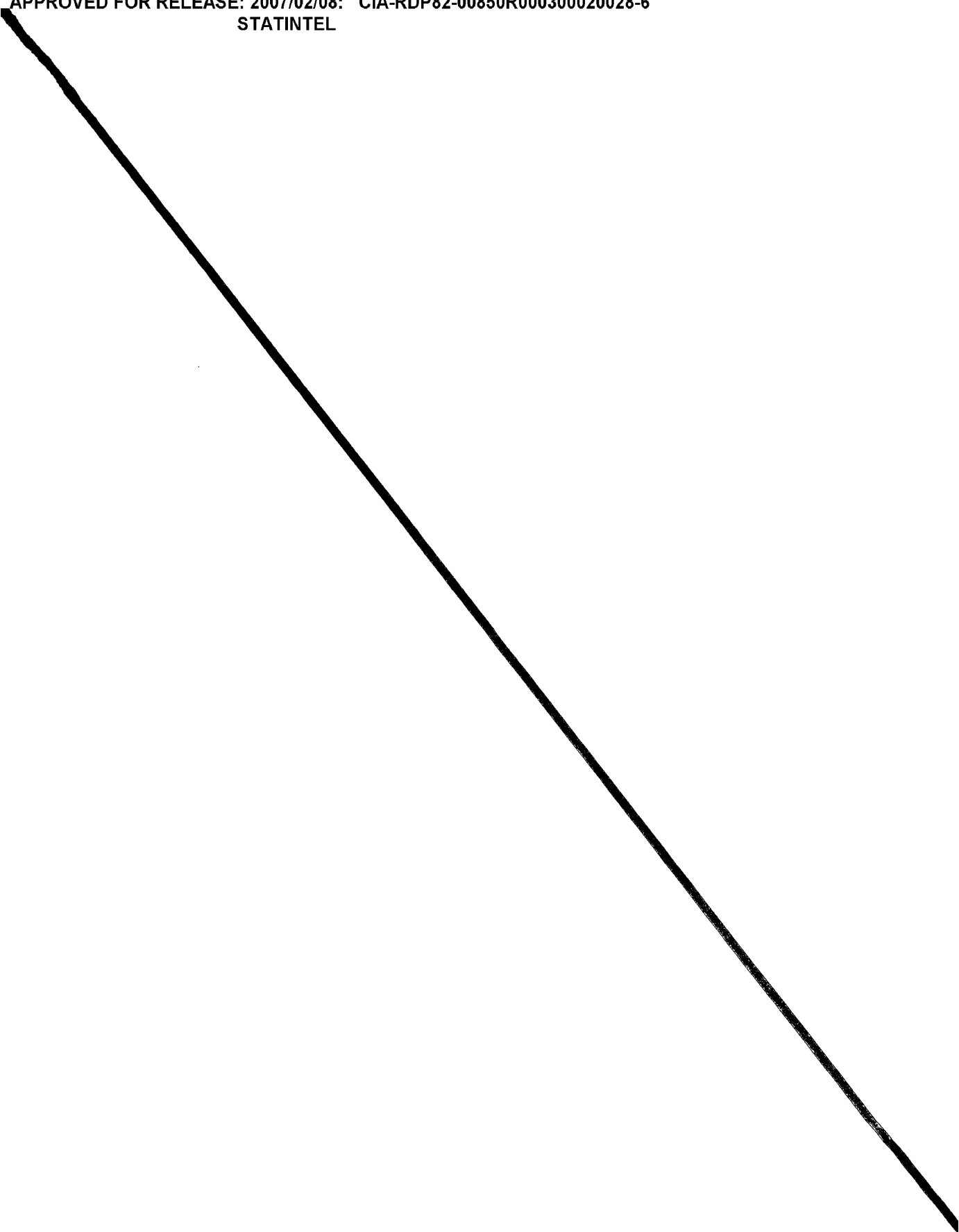
After voicing Grenada's solidarity with the Central American and Caribbean peoples, Bishop reaffirmed the firm cooperation and friendship that exists between Cuba and Grenada.

For his part, the Cuban ambassador said that in the Cuban people Grenada has loyal friends, willing to give it their unselfish aid whenever necessary.

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ARGENTINA

STRATEGIC CONCERNS VIEWED AS HIDALGO'S MOTIVES FOR VISIT

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 6 Jul 80 p 12

[Article by Sergio Ceron: "Argentina Is a Strategically Valuable Nation to the United States"]

[Text] The visit by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Edward Hidalgo, despite the prudence with which he covered his movements, offers enough indications so that one may state that the new phase in relations between that country and Argentina is not only aimed at raising their level but seems to be aimed, almost without a doubt, toward an alliance. This statement appears to be very venturesome, but an analysis of recent months, particularly after the visit by Gen Andrew Jackson Goodpaster, reinforces that theory.

Shortly before initiating his trip to Brazil last Thursday, Hidalgo acknowledged to Buenos Aires newsmen that in a meeting he had with the president of the nation the Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment (which forbids military aid to some countries, among them Argentina) and "the obvious results of that legislation" had been discussed, which means the equipment supply problems it presents to the armed forces of those nations.

Simultaneously with that revelation by the secretary of the navy, U.S. naval sources announced that during the tour they would consider aspects having to do with the resupplying with equipment the five countries it will cover: in addition to our country and Brazil there are Mexico, Venezuela and Panama. If to both reports we add the suggestive phrase the clever U.S. official let slip out on the day of his arrival ("the prophets believe that some change can be expected in the future") with respect to the attitude of the U.S. Congress, it is obvious that a process of revision of the aforementioned amendment is underway.

In a very subtle manner, more in keeping with the old European diplomacy than with the sometimes direct manner of the Department of State school, Hidalgo tried to wrest importance from his visit. "It has been," he said, "one more visit of those which have been made recently between our two countries."

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Let us remember that Lt Gen Andrew Jackson Goodpaster, adviser to President Carter; one of the officials of the highest intellectual level, Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges; Export-Import Bank President Ronald Stingel; Assistant Secretary for Maritime Affairs Samuel Nemirov; and a special ambassador, an expert in nuclear affairs and copresident of the Trilateral Commission during the 1973-1976 period, Gerard Smith, all preceded him in coming to Buenos Aires.

In its last edition, the Latin American magazine VISION published an extensive report on Argentina in which it primarily emphasizes its relations with the United States. It says: "The confusing movements of U.S. diplomacy" are at this time aimed "at seeking a useful rapprochement with Argentina after having subjected it to 4 years of affronts over human rights."

Specifically, probably the most important qualitative change took place with the arrival of Goodpaster, who because of his military status, spoke in the same professional language as his Argentine colleagues and established the conditions for initiating a new period in Argentine-U.S. relations. It was as if it allowed the establishment of an agreement whereby both governments pledged themselves to creating a system of permanent consultations for considering common and world problems.

Secretary Hodges, sticking to his specific mission--the development of U.S. trade--did not hesitate to state that "my country has a new viewpoint about trade relations with Argentina, a change which is due to the strength and the importance of the Argentine economy in the world."

However, perhaps the one who summarized the opinion of the military and economic sectors of the United States was Ambassador Raul Castro, who declared: "Argentina is a strategic country which can provide food and be self-sufficient in the field of energy."

This is an important change in viewpoint by the Yankee embassy in Buenos Aires. We recall a couple of years ago, when war with Chile was almost certain, two of us reporters from LA OPINION were having lunch at the house of an attache, who said: "The United States is not overly affected by a conflict in that area; it is a marginally strategic region for us."

Our arguments on the importance of the navigation routes which pass around the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn were to no avail. The Shah of Iran still ruled; no one in the world knew the Ayatollah Khomeini and the USSR was not thinking of sending its paratroopers and armored divisions to Afghanistan. The oil of the Middle East, although expensive, seemed to be assured for the avid industries of the West.

As we know, however, things changed greatly in only 24 months. In the light of the events which took place in that period, Argentina, and even the rest of the so-called Southern Cone, acquired a fundamental importance for the defense of the United States and noncommunist Europe.

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This theory, repeatedly expounded in this column, was reinforced last 16 June by Lt Gen (R) of the United States, Daniel Graham. An adviser to presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, he represents a trend of thinking which is deeply rooted in the military circles of his country. However, it is beginning to invade academic circles, where a perceptible movement toward the center-right of the ideological spectrum is beginning to take form after several decades of "progressive" liberalism predominance.

Graham maintained that the nations of the West, which depend on freedom of navigation, must have control in the South Atlantic. This is as much a natural condition, he said, as that of the Soviet Union having the largest land forces.

What was Graham getting at? It is obvious that he took into account the theory expounded in 1911 by Sir Halford Mackinder, the clairvoyant British geographer, who became a precursor of geostrategy and geopolitics. In a famous lecture at the London Geographic Society, he declared that the nation which controlled the central area of Eurasia (he called it the "heartland") would become the primary world land power. Inevitably, after its consolidation as the controlling power on the Eurasian continent, it would compete for world power with the maritime countries (at that time Great Britain, United States, West Europe, Latin America, Australia and Japan).

With the passage of decades, the Soviet Union consolidated its control over the "heartland" and in the past two decades has developed a powerful and technically advanced battlefleet and has by various means obtained bases for its units on the "Horn of Africa," Mozambique and Angola. In this way the "oil route" travelled by the supertankers, which because of their size are unable to cross the Suez Canal, is subjected to a latent threat.

Graham did not hesitate, on the other hand, in sponsoring the creation of an organization for the defense of the South Atlantic--similar to NATO--which allows the resolution of the pressures Moscow exerts in the region. Moreover, he declared that if Reagan defeats Carter, the change would be very important for "Latin America because once more the United States is going to treat its old friends as nations and not as world welfare cases."

This means that after a period of subordinating paternalism there is thought of the establishment of an alliance between the hegemonic power of the West and the nations which represent for it the possibility of creating a solid strategic structure for the defense of common interests.

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True Goal

Returning to the secretary of the navy, Argentine observers could not but note his interests for lessening the expectations aroused by his arrival in Buenos Aires. However, a number of facts left no room for doubt as to the true goal of the trip. Let us look at some of the arguments which truly strengthen the expectations in question:

The presence of the U.S. official was due to a White House initiative.

In his party was Vice Adm Forley, deputy chief of operations of the U.S. Navy. The inclusion of this officer, who has the responsibility of planning the policy and operations of the navy command, as a member of the secretary's party, would not have been authorized for a private visit.

A meeting of the commanders in chief of the navies of the continent will be held in Ecuador in August, a conference which will presumably examine problems having to do with the defense of the American maritime coasts.

The UNITAS exercises are being intensified and prolonged during the next 6 months, a proof of the concern of Washington in consolidating the common defense against a possible blockade of the strategic sea routes.

Hidalgo is visiting Argentina and Brazil--the natural guardians of the South Atlantic--Mexico and Venezuela--petroleum exporting countries and through whose jurisdictional waters tankers which supply the U.S. economy have to cross--and Panama, the strategic value of whose canal does not have to be emphasized.

It is well to take a look at what is taking place precisely in the area of the Caribbean Sea. As of 1975 the experts have detected a new phase in Cuban activities. According to historian Hugh Thomas, they are due to the fact that Kremlin strategists have reached the conclusion that the power vacuum existing in the region because the European colonial withdrawal and the U.S. lack of will is as promising as the one created in Africa in the last decade. We point out that this has the aggravating factor that it is an area located in the strategic rearguard of the United States. The bones of Theodore Roosevelt must be shaking with indignation in his grave.

Let us make a brief examination of why Central America and the Caribbean are of importance for the United States:

Mexico will become one of the main petroleum suppliers.

El Salvador is the center of U.S. business in Central America.

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Guatemala has just found petroleum deposits.

Nicaragua, with a phylocommunist government is a center of extremist irradiation towards its neighbors.

Jamaica ranks third in bauxite production in the world.

The island ministates of the Caribbean, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Vincent and Saint Lucia, are more or less subjected to the influence of Cuba, and the nearby sea routes through which passes the petroleum from the Middle East and Venezuela are controlled from their territories.

Guyana continues to play the role of the beachhead for Marxism in South America.

This panorama, in itself complex, will be complicated, as we have explained in previous commentaries, with the possibility of the fall, sooner or later, of the white government of Pretoria. The recent raids by the South African army into Angola against the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO), are similar to the sorties by besieged forces from their castles during the Middle Ages.

#### South Africa

Many analysts believe that the happy days of the descendents of the Boers are coming to an end and that inevitably South Africa will fall into the hands of the movements which demand its possession by the blacks. It does not matter that the South Africans argue that when their forefathers came there no blacks lived in the region and that they came after years had passed, attracted by the economic progress of the white economy. Whether this is true or not this argument does not change things. The political dynamics of the continent indicate that unless logic is overcome the Pretoria government cannot survive.

In this case--whether the black government is neutral or pro-Moscow--the strategic position of the USSR will be consolidated in the zone because the South African Navy will have disappeared as the possible ally of the West and as a factor of control of the oil route, or because as a second alternative, the USSR has won new bases for its fleet.

In summary, this brief glance at the world strategic picture shows that Argentina has ceased to be a marginal country and that, to the contrary, its cooperation is of great value to the United States and to West Europe, even though the latter has not yet become fully aware of its interests.

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On the basis of this statement, the stories coming from Washington on the possibility that the successor to Lt Gen Videla as the president of the nation will pay a visit to the White House even before his installation in office, gain credence. Moreover, in an issue of the daily CLARIN (2-7-80), it is said that sources close to the U.S. Government declared that "the pertinent Argentine officials are considering all aspects of the question."

In the light of what we have analyzed up to here, it is not an exaggeration to think that this trip will take place since everything appears to indicate that there is a special interest in Washington in renewing relations with Buenos Aires with a certain urgency. And in this aspect there is agreement in circles close to President James Carter and the advisers of his opponent Ronald Reagan. This is because the great powers can give themselves the luxury of having their leadership classes fiercely fight for power on the domestic scene, however, in their world strategy they know how to see, beyond momentary periods of confusion or doubt, where their permanent interests are located.

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ARGENTINA

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE NECESSARY TO MAKE NATION GREAT AGAIN

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 6 Jul 80 p 13

[Article by Eduardo J. Paredes: "Democratic Conviction Leads To Being an Ally Without Being a Satellite"]

[Text] One should--and it can be done--exist as an independent nation, defend sovereignty and handle foreign relations as a fundamental ingredient of policy but not necessarily as a conditioning ingredient of policy.

One can--and should--control the reins of the national economy and behave with an independent criterion in trade relations with the rest of the world.

One should not--and cannot--base the national strategy of a developing country on a hysterical blindness which prevents the measuring of pressures and the interests of developed countries, the great powers.

One cannot--and should not--engage in economic xenophobia and at the same time attempt a healthy development because the powerful countries control or exert influence in the control of the world economy. Although some unknown emir may make millions of dollars from petroleum, he makes them precisely because of the existence of those great industrialized countries which consume energy.

Yugoslavia is the socialist country with the most independence with respect to the Soviet Union in the scheme of things in Europe. However, it was Brezh'nev, not Carter, who shed tears--perhaps tears of happiness--on the coffin of Marshal Tito. Yugoslavia is the wayward son of Moscow's policy, but a son nevertheless.

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Today Argentina is undergoing its domestic political episodes in keeping with foreign political episodes. It is not necessary to expand on information in this column since on this same page Sergio Ceron had undertaken, with greater efficiency, an analysis of the information related to this undeniable theory. This simply goes to show that those who think that Argentina should necessarily act in keeping with U.S. policy and those who think that the goings and comings from Washington should matter to us not one whit are equally mistaken. Not mistaken, on the other hand, are those who believe that what is truly important--at the same time truly difficult--is that Argentine policy, in structure and methods, not oppose that of the United States. Although it is not good for the country to be a partner under disadvantageous conditions with U.S. might, it is much worse to swell the ranks of its enemies without a good reason which affects national sovereignty in the most overall and broad meaning of the phrase.

Based on a logical and simple balance showing that there are no ideological reasons or those of domestic peace which force us to be an enemy of Washington, the country is faced with a specific fact: It must prepare a domestic policy which is useful for its development without losing sight of the areas of geopolitical power which begin at the borders and end in the United States. One cannot be grossly naive. Conflicts such as those of the Persian Gulf, Southeast Asia, the Central American Marxist rebellions, the energy crisis, the international nuclear agreements do not directly affect Argentine policy but they do so through U.S. policy. There were not many Argentines who knew where Afghanistan was until it was decided not to attend the Moscow Olympic Games based on the condemnation of the Soviet invasion of that country. Let us be frank. Not to sell grain to the USSR meant an economic hardship. Not to send athletes was accepting one of the points the United States proposed to its allies; the most acceptable. However, it was important after all, although not necessarily congruent.

Undeniably a member of the western bloc lead by the United States, political custom leads us to see three relatively easy alternatives clearly: that of a satellite, the famous "third position," and black-mail. The first is as repugnant as it is unnecessary. The United States does not want satellites but allies because the former turn out to be much more expensive for it than the latter. Such was the case of South Vietnam, Nationalist China and now South Korea, while Japan, Great Britain and West Germany are always a reinsurance favoring Washington which can do a very good business in yen, pounds or marks in exchange for enough missiles to make the Soviet Union look more toward Persian Gulf petroleum than to the petroleum of the North Sea. The second alternative is a lie, which because it is so big seemed to be the truth. There is no "third position" except in physical education classes. If a country is democratic, it is an ally of the United States without having to be its

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satellite or its partner. It is not so mandatorily but because of ideological conviction since the United States is the most important democratic country in the world. That is a definition of the international policy which goes far beyond the multinationals, the banks, loans and Coca-Cola. One must not mix nationalist folklore on imperialism with the ideological reality, nor mix the business of some little minister with the political and social reality of a country. A democratic country should be an ally of the United States even though it may have a perfectly structured and independent domestic policy and economy. The only genuine "nonaligned" countries are the Marxist countries which work from Havana or Belgrade--Peking has already become aware that Moscow is behind all that--so that the entire so-called Third World will become definitively socialist. Finally, the strategy of blackmail--playing on the side of the United States in exchange for investments with the permanent threat of changing sides--is also repugnant and also dangerous. It can turn a country into the prostitute of the international community and alienate from its political leadership the men with a defined ideology. In that way it falls with great ease into generalized corruption and it facilitates the growth--together with Marxist subversion--of domestic disintegration. Argentina experienced that process during the Lopez Regla period with absurdities such as the mission to Libya, the talk by Isabelita with Chou En-lai--who died without ever learning who that lady was--and the famous Havana industrial exposition to enable Gelbard to sell some tires. They were classical blackmail maneuvers against the United States, which alienated us from Washington and served as a free show to the communist world, but which had the result of an increase in corruption and the strengthening of subversion. This mentally deficient policy is practiced less and less except by some small underdeveloped republics.

Today's geopolitical situation indicates that the three methods should be shelved forever if one desires to act seriously. The only chance for developing economically and at the same time being able to be a democratic country consists of developing politically independently but in the direction in which the interests of the already developed countries indicate. The famous "cultural dependency," which communism disguised as nationalism brandishes as a specter, is the Achilles heel which any political process such as the one being undertaken by Argentina, can suffer because of a lack of a defined strategy. To identify with the U.S. cultural ways through television series is as stupid as it is counterproductive. However, to march in step with its science, its technological advances, its educational experiences and its formidable practical diplomacy, is also a sort of cultural dependence, which viewed with objectivity is not so negative. A country can have its Martin Fierro, its Borges, its Palito Ortega and its Maradona, without for that reason being forced to have its University's progress halted in 1918, or its sewer network dated as 1930, or its political parties dated at 1890 or its educational system at 1920.

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Now, after 4 years of frankly unfriendly relations, Argentina is preparing for a new phase in its relations with the United States.

It would appear that the subject is exhausted in the solution of some more or less timely questions while waiting to see whether Carter is reelected or Reagan wins: human rights policy, Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment, nuclear agreement, UNITAS maneuvers, the foundations of a profound diplomatic relationship, and short term investments. And military men, politicians and newspapermen, we all engage in a priori guesses, whether it will be "hawks" or "doves," liberals of the left and liberals of the right, whether Carter or Reagan will win, whether we should accept 25 Cuban refugees so that they can sell sausages at the Costanera, whether we can have nuclear powerplants, but with the promise of no trickery in the form of an atomic bomb, whether the wheat agreement, the meat, whether....

Obviously everything is of much importance at this time, but supposing that favorable solutions for Argentina are found; that Edward Hidalgo recommends to his country the abolition of the military embargo; that Raul Castro recommends that Argentina not be harassed by the Carter policy on human rights; that the Pentagon becomes convinced that our nuclear policy is one with peaceful intentions; that the blockades of international prices for the sale of our traditional products be terminated, and supposing, finally, that Reagan wins and in place of Patricia Derian there is some nephew of Gen Alexander Haig, will we have truly established our ideological place in the international community?

It is very possible that the United States is interested in resolving these frictions within the mere framework of the present but will retain a great lack of trust on the future intentions of Argentina. It is possible that the lack of a definite international policy by our country since the 30's, beginning with the British decline and the rise of European fascism places us more in the position of a blackmailer than that of an ally.

Perhaps, while solutions advance for the problems of the times, we may already be in need of offering some guarantee of our democratic conviction, of the faithful practice of republicanism, of the assumption of a direct and spontaneous position toward serious international problems so that the United States will view us as a future ally with great independence as a nation instead of as a suspect neutral although the victim of economic satellite status.

To expect too much understanding and patience from the United States is a mistake because great powers are first of all prepotent and that prepotence is only reduced before the respect deserved by a lesser country when that country shows its independence marked by an ideological seriousness, by the genuine representativeness of its foreign policy, by an advance of its technology, a reaffirmation of its culture and by the healthy defense of its interests. Twenty years ago, U.S. soldiers stationed in their country's bases in Okinawa, from behind protective

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fences, watched violent skirmishes between the Japanese military police and Marxist students who protested the existence of those bases, with indifference. Today, any Japanese political news warrants several pages in TIME or NEWSWEEK. Japan, the defeated country in the Pacific, did not win the respect of the winner by manufacturing little watches but rather by the complete resurgence of its people, the leadership class, by the assimilation of western culture without losing its own culture, by its strong democracy and by its realistic diplomacy.

Historically, we are faced with the moral need to become a great country again. But it is also that history, that everyday history, which forces us to be westerners in defense of an ideology and not because of a geographical accident.

To be an ally of one who is in the right is neither the loss of independence nor dignity. To be its concealed enemy but to want its dollars is as lacking in seriousness as going to Libya...The "third position" continues to be an absolutely ridiculous caper.

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ARGENTINA

NATION HARVESTING FRUIT OF DIPLOMATIC OPENNESS

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 29 Jun 80 p 12

[Article by Sergio Ceron: "An Open Breach in European Social Democracy in Vienna; Argentine Diplomatic Openness Contrasts With Pinochet's Isolation"]

[Text] With the minister of foreign relations' visit to Vienna, the Palacio San Martin has just taken one more step in Argentine diplomacy's opening to the world to reaffirm the country's presence in the concert of nations. The Austrian capital, described as the "peace city" because of that country's strict neutrality, imposed as a pledge for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces that occupied it at the close of World War II, was an important reason behind the Argentine military government's attempt to seek a rapprochement with certain sectors of Europe where it had encountered a greater degree of ideological resistance. Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky was one of the spokesmen in the criticisms unleashed in the European social democratic movement against the Buenos Aires authorities, raising the banner of human rights. But Kreisky is also a statesman who knows how to perfectly reconcile principles with the needs imposed by having to know how to behave with a suitable measure of pragmatism. His adherence to the social democratic line and his status as a Jew do not, for example, prevent him from displaying a clear policy of rapprochement with the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose adherence to the Western European concept of human rights would not be considered — not even by the least impartial observers — to be any greater than that of the military governments of South America.

If one likes, Kreisky's attitude was reasonable inasmuch as his country's national interests were at stake.

The importance Argentina is beginning to acquire in terms of its significant public works program for the decade (\$115 billion), its food export capacity and its imminent entry (1982 or 1983) into the club of energy-selling countries (fuel oil and perhaps gas), not to mention the possibility of discovering big oil deposits in the Argentine Basin, is no doubt turning it into an interesting trade partner.

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From this point of view, many Western countries seem to be prepared to forgive us for having waged a war without quarter against subversion. With the same generosity, of course, with which the world has forgotten the responsibility ex-members of the Third Reich still have for the genocide of 6 million human beings.

It is odd that, hardly three decades later, this Europe, which bled itself in a merciless civil war -- which in the end was the final struggle -- immolated millions of men in concentration camps and without compunction shot down patriots, should raise its accusing finger against those who have defended its way of life against the intrusion by means of terrorism of a totalitarian philosophy.

But that is life and we must bury the past, without forgetting it, of course. So, it seems that for Austria the time has come for the blossoming of its friendship with Argentina and we should accept the fact with an extended hand. It is highly probable that, once economic relations have been consolidated, Mr Kreisky will reach the conclusion that bilateral ties with Buenos Aires are as legitimate as those Austria maintains with Yasir. Arafat.

Meanwhile, at the presidential level, Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations Carlos Washington Pastor has been the object of an unusual distinction: the extension of his conversation with Rudolf Kirchschlaeger by an hour and a half. This was a prologue to the audience Chancellor Kreisky was to grant him the next day. The simple fact that this significant meeting was held is a definitive sign that a breach has been made in European social democracy, in which we may perhaps have a friendly arbitrator if not an ally.

At a time of the opening of a new phase in our relations with the United States, the recent signing of agreements with Brazil and President Videla's visit to the People's Republic of China, Pastor's presence in Vienna is contributing to the delineation of a global diplomatic strategy which is sketching the outlines of a new Argentine international personality.

We may accept or disagree with some of the steps that have been taken in this domain, but it would be hard for anyone to deny the existence of a coherent and dynamic policy, for the first time in decades, in the Palacio San Martin.

The world is confronted with the possibility of a heightening of tensions among the great powers, which would not completely rule out the possibility of an arms confrontation. We can only hope that in such an event the conflict will be limited to the use of conventional weapons. The Middle East is, at the present time, the most likely "casus belli" to arise at this point in history. The United States and Europe's dependence on the supply of oil from that region is such that any political destabilization and possible paralysis of the supply could be converted into a pretext for military intervention with unforeseeable consequences. Nor does the CIA

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prediction that by 1985 the Soviet Union's hydrocarbon deposits will no longer be sufficient to meet the needs of that power's economy and those of the Eastern European satellite nations contribute to our peace of mind.

Consequently, as we at IA OPINION have repeatedly pointed out, everything that has to do with control over the oil routes that start from the Strait of Hormuz, skirt the coast of East Africa and penetrate the South Atlantic has assumed relevant strategic importance.

The recent naval maneuvers taking place on our continent fall within this framework of the situation. The 21st Operation Unity will bring together naval units from the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay, which will maneuver in South American waters for 6 months.

Friday, U.S. ships under the command of Vice Admiral Peter Cullins will sail from the Puerto Rican port of Roosevelt Roads and it is furthermore anticipated that large number of naval aircraft, chiefly from the Antisubmarine Combat Group, will participate in the exercises.

Of course, the objective of these maneuvers is the strengthening of protection for the sea routes in the southern hemisphere in view of the importance this region has been acquiring during the past few months.

Because of a political decision by Jimmy Carter, however, the Chilean Navy cannot be represented. The Democratic administration does not appear to be willing to forgive Gen Augusto Pinochet for the death of ex-Minister of Foreign Relations Orlando Letelier or at least for the fact that it has not taken very clear steps to clarify the matter.

Aware of the international isolation of its government, the Chilean press has hastened to enthusiastically welcome Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro's trip to Santiago. The fact is that the signing of agreements between Argentina and Brazil, whose relevance is recognized not only in continental circles but also by U.S. and European observers, set transparent guidelines in terms of which any Chilean attempt to apply pressure against Argentina on its northeast flank — a potential alliance with Brazil — was as of then doomed to failure.

And that is no doubt the way it is. But Brasilia cannot throw overboard what was its historic ally in, at the end of the last century and during the early decades of the current one, confronting Argentina's virtual leadership in South America. Today, convinced of its potential, Brazil feels that friendship and cooperation with Buenos Aires are much more interesting than confrontation. At least as long as the current world situation lasts, in which the rise in cost and scarcity of energy and the economic recession are leading its model of development into a crisis.

With the diplomatic subtlety that is typical of them, after travelling to Chile, the Brazilians on Thursday hastened to overcautiously delimit the

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basis for their minister of foreign affairs' conversations in Santiago. A spokesman for Itamaraty called a press conference to explain to reporters that the secretary of state's trip was in no way a preparation for the one President Joao Baptista Figueiredo is to make to Chile in the second half of the year. Furthermore, he intimated to diplomatic observers that the purpose of these statements is to emphasize "the strictly commercial significance of the Guerreiro mission and to get rid of any interpretation to the effect that this is Brazilian support for the current domestic policy of this Andean country."

Obviously, the perspicacious slips of the tongue made by Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesmen are an attempt to subdue any attempt by Buenos Aires to interpret Guerreiro's presence there with suspicion, considering the fact that the thorny question of the Beagle is still pending and that several unidentified Chilean sources have spoken of the possible signing of a nuclear pact with Brazil.

Simultaneously, our country's and Brazil's navies will be launching Operation Fraterno II. The Argentine task force consists of Drummond and Guerrico missile-equipped corvettes and the submarine "San Luis" in addition to naval air squadrons. The Brazilian force consists of the frigates "Constitucion" and "Defensora" and the submarine "Tonelero." In both cases, the most up-to-date combat units, suited to the sophisticated technology today prevailing in the navies of the big powers, are involved.

These maneuvers will be a repetition of those engaged in in 1978 in Brazilian territorial waters and will be deployed in Argentine waters. They will focus on the reciprocal action of both fleets so that they will be capable of exercising effective control over sea traffic in their respective spheres of influence in the event that should be necessary.

Some newspapers in our neighbor country have attempted to interpret this initiative in a way that Argentine Ministry of Foreign Relations spokesmen have hastened to correct. It is not a question of signing an Argentine-Brazilian defense pact, nor of replacing — as these news media claim — American strategic dominance with a new kind, backed by a bilateral alliance. The hemisphere's strategic and economic interests are at stake. The best way to defend them is to prepare ourselves in the event it may be necessary to engage in a joint action in the South Atlantic area along with those countries that have common interests. Both the United States and Brazil share this characteristic. Argentina wants to count on the friendship of both without having to try to drag itself through the slippery realm of blocs and confrontations.

So, just as it has counted on overcoming a long period of confrontations and rivalries with Brazil, Buenos Aires hopes to establish a new relationship with the United States which will culminate in friendship and alliance.

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CUBA

GOVERNMENT DRAFTS 1981-1985 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PA252307 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1314 GMT 25 Jul 80

[Commentary by Rafael Contreras]

[Text] Havana, 25 Jul (PL)--During the next 5-year period, 1981-85, Cuba will invest heavily in the sugar, energy, chemical, shipping, textile and other industries, which will give the principal impetus to the nation's development.

All of those investments are related to the upsurge in the sugar industry, the nation's economic mainstay, which in turn will contribute to expanding the nation's other economic branches and subsequently result in increased exports and higher living standards for the people.

Preparations for making these investments are contained in draft guidelines for economic and social policy for the island's Second 5-Year Plan, which will be submitted for approval to the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, to be held here toward the end of this year.

Investments for the 5-year period exceed 700 million pesos, which is equal to 27 times the value of the installations existing in 1959, and will employ more than 50,000 workers.

When the Cuban revolution triumphed in that year, only 40 small machine shops existed, with an estimated capital of 26 million pesos and employing slightly under 4,000 workers. These were mainly dedicated to maintenance of the sugar industry.

Fifteen new sugar mills will be built and nine others expanded during the next 5-year period, and the Cienfuegos Nuclear Powerplant in central Cuba and other installations will be placed in operation during the Third 5-year period, 1986-1990.

In addition, new thermoelectrical units will go into operation in the national electricity grid with a potential of 1,100 and 1,300 megawatts, which will satisfy the demand estimated for 1981.

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During that period, the Cuban state will dedicate its efforts toward production of new fishing and recreation boats for export, and for maintenance of the present fleet.

As far as the chemical industry is concerned, new plants for the production of intermediate resins and calcium carbide will be built, and production of industrial gases will be increased to meet total domestic demands.

In addition to these plans, production of knits and manufactured textiles will be increased some 75 percent (over that of the last 5-year period, 1976-1980) and construction will begin on new industrial projects that should be operational after 1986.

According to these economic plans, production of color television sets, other durable consumer goods, technical equipment and computer equipment for export will be initiated.

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NICARAGUA

PRELA REPORTS ON CASTRO'S ACTIVITIES

PA190113 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2359 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Article by Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Managua, 18 Jul (PL)--On the first day of his visit to Nicaragua, Cuban President Fidel Castro made an interesting tour of areas around Managua.

Accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra and by the other members of the Cuban delegation, Fidel Castro made a short visit to Santiago volcano, located near the city of Masaya.

The Cuban president observed the impressive crater of the volcano from two different lookout points, located at key spots in the Masaya National Park, a beautiful tourist center which extends for several hectares around the volcano.

Fidel asked many questions of Commander Ortega and park employees regarding the characteristics of the area, such as the climate, the sulphur content of the air, damage caused by the volcano in its last eruption and other matters.

After leaving the site, impressed with its natural beauty and the size of the volcano, the Cuban chief of state and his party went to the historic city of Masaya, the bastion of the insurrection against the Somoquist tyranny.

In Masaya the forces of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] fought fiercely against the Somoza National Guard and its residents suffered intensive and destructive bombing until the people's revolution triumphed.

Fidel arrived unexpectedly at the ruins of the town's former military garrison, which was razed by the peoples militias and the people in the days preceding the Sandinist triumph.

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In that city he heard from Commander Ortega and many residents of Masaya accounts of the fighting in the city and the manner in which the FSLN set the military installation on fire with home-made "contact bombs."

The news of Fidel's presence in Masaya spread like wildfire and in a few moments hundreds of persons gathered in front of the ruined garrison to cheer the Cuban leader, Commander Ortega and the revolutions of the two countries.

Fidel talked enthusiastically for some moments with several of the persons who vied for the opportunity to embrace him, shake his hand or simply get close enough to speak to him.

A young shoemaker from the Masaya handicraft industry narrated some periods of the insurrectional struggle and answered Fidel's questions about the kind and quality of shoes made at his work site.

One woman, stirred to emotion, embraced and kissed Fidel, shouting at the top of her voice that she is happy to have him in Nicaragua and visting Masaya. Many other people also could not contain their enthusiasm over the unexpected meeting.

One touching moment occurred when Fidel talked with the son of Carlos Ulloa, the Nicaraguan internationalist fighter who died at the Bay of Pigs defending the Cuban revolution from the mercenary aggression of 1961. Accompanied by Ulloa's son and surrounded by a crowd of persons striving to greet him, Fidel went to the center of Masaya Park, where a bust of Ulloa had just been unveiled. He asked about the other members of the deceased fighter's family.

Shortly afterward, the Cuban delegation visited a modest residence in the area where Nicaraguan revolutionary Commander Camilo Ortega Saavedra lived and was assassinated. In talking with the present inhabitants of the house, Fidel expressed interest in the handicrafts that they produce for sale during the area's traditional holidays.

When he stopped at a furniture factory where wicker and oakwood are used as the main materials and where the owner gave Fidel a beautiful armchair, Fidel Castro spoke for a long time with some cowboys and employees of a dairy.

After this talk, in which he asked about their working conditions and the technical conditions at the dairy, Fidel had a fraternal meeting at the side of the highway with Hortensia Bussi, widow of Salvador Allende, who was on her way to Masaya.

The Cuban president's first hours in Nicaragua were therefore characterized by an immediate meeting with the people and at the same time by a confirmation of the Nicaraguan men and women's solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

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NICARAGUA

NICARAGUAN TOWN MEETINGS, 'DIRECT DEMOCRACY' AT WORK

PA181319 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1402 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Article by Special Correspondent Jose Bodes Gomes]

[Text] Managua, 17 Jul (PL)--The Sandinist revolution has given further proof of its popular roots and political clarity by holding open town meetings throughout the country.

The members of the state council were sent to the various departments (provinces) to hold unrestricted direct dialogues with the people.

The very creation of the state council in May constituted a correct decision aimed at collaborating with the National Reconstruction Government Junta in legislative tasks.

With simple words, guerrilla Commander Omar Cabezas explained at the town meeting held in Leon how this process developed:

"We noted that the government junta could not carry the full weight of ruling and legislating. That is when we thought about a state council to help it promulgate laws and create the democracy that Somizism never permitted."

The state council is comprised of 47 members who represent the worker and peasant centrals, the Sandinist defense committees and other mass organizations, as well as the political parties and the private sector.

Reviewing the activities the open town meetings held during the past weekend, state council President Commander Bayardo Arce praised the popular sectors' participation in these assemblies.

The citizens discussed their various problems and in certain cases even suggested solutions.

One of the participants at the town meeting in Leon asked that Article No. 134 of the Labor Code, which establishes a 14-hour work shift for

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maids, be abolished. A reform of that law is currently being drafted in order to adapt it to the social changes that have taken place in Nicaragua.

At the town meeting in Granada, a labor leader asked what sanctions will be imposed on those who use the media to attack the revolution. State council member Commander Hugo Torres explained that all freedoms have been conquered in this country, but that the freedom of expression cannot be used to undermine the people's victory.

Various participants commented on requests for the construction of homes for workers. Regarding this, the council representatives responded that these projects are not progressing as quickly as desired because the country has only very limited resources.

As Commander Bayardo Arce explained, the experience acquired at these assemblies confirm that the people are fundamentally interested in finding solutions to the most pressing needs inherited from the Somozist dictatorship.

There was no talk about elections or superstructural problems at these town meetings, the state council president explained, and some of the sectors demanding participation did not even show up at any of them.

This observation supports the slogan that appears on one of the murals of the new 19 July plaza in Managua: "We workers and peasants will achieve our ends."

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PANAMA

NEWSPAPER SCORES U.S. MANEUVERS AGAINST CUBA

PA202255 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1943 GMT 20 Jul 80

[Text] Panama City, 20 Jul (PL)--The newspaper LINEA stated that with its maneuvers against Cuba, the United States has moved from the offensive to the defensive and is now reaping the bitter fruits of its aggressive policy.

In an article entitled "The United States Tasted the Bitterness of Its Maneuver," the Panamanian publication, in its last edition, analyzes the problems of indiscipline and crime provoked by the Cuban antisocials in the United States, Peru and other countries to which they have emigrated.

Noting that on the initiation of the Florida-Cuba air bridge U.S. President James Carter spoke of receiving the antisocials with open arms, LINEA points out that his smile turned into bitterness when the recently arrived elements triggered disorders in Key West and Fort Chaffee.

To LINEA, such demonstrations by the presumed refugees point to the failure of the U.S. anti-Cuban maneuver and explain Carter's desperate efforts to send them back to their country.

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PERU

BRIEFS

LABOR FRONT ORGANIZATION PLANNED--Lima, 13 Jul (PL)--The Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) has made a call to organize a labor front to include professionals from all sectors who are sympathetic or are PCP members. In a document signed by Dr Asuncion Caballero Mendez and released here today, the PCP announces the holding of the first national meeting of communist professionals. After expressing its solidarity with the wave of strikes being held throughout the country, the PCP announces the creation of coordination committees for the meeting which should have the participation of doctors, dentists, teachers and other professionals. [Text] [PA140440 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Jul 80]

NEWSPAPER CRITICIZES NEWS MEDIA--Lima, 13 Jul (PL)--The newspaper DIARIO MARKA today branded the liquidation of Telecentro state enterprise and the return of television stations to their former owners as illegal and as returning the news media to the stone age. Telecentro has been producing newscasts and programs for channels 4 and 5. Channel 3 belongs to the state and will remain so. The partnership Delgado Parker, Arbulu and Umbert liquidated Telecentro without consulting any state official and went ahead to form enterprises which only the government should be engaging in, DIARIO MARKA indicated. Meanwhile, the debts of the Delgado Parker partnership and the investigation of illegal activities which the Comptroller General's Office was conducting have been left pending. The paper says, in a front-page editorial, that in this manner the news media will be alienated by the transmission of canned programs and the massive propaganda sponsored by the transnationals. [Text] [PA140450 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2110 GMT 13 Jul 80]

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SURINAME

DUTCH PARTY SUPPORTS FULFILLMENT OF AID REQUEST

PA101545 Havana PRELA in English 1403 GMT 1 Jul 80

[Text] Paramaribo Jul 10 (PL)--The Dutch Pacifist Socialist Party (PSP) declared support for the positions adopted by Suriname Prime Minister Henck Chin-A-Sen regarding the conflict with The Hague on economic assistance.

The PSP declared that it supports the Suriname request for Holland to keep its aid pledge of one million 800 thousand dollars and accused the Netherlands Government of being insensitive to the people of its former colony.

Concretely the Dutch party accuses Development Cooperation Minister Jan de Koning of having supplied a one-sided version of the discussions with Chin-A-Sen and members of his Cabinet in Paramaribo. "When De Koning turned down the request for an additional sum to ease the effects of inflation, the Suriname Government proposed other alternatives," states the declaration.

These proposals, states the PSP, were turned down by the Netherlands Government, while Minister de Koning failed to mention that part of the discussion.

The PSP said it is prepared to launch a campaign of pressure in Holland to warn the country of the "intensive attitude" of the government regarding the people of Suriname.

Meanwhile, over the past weekend there were demonstrations in this capital to protest the Dutch decision to suspend the negotiations on joint development programs.

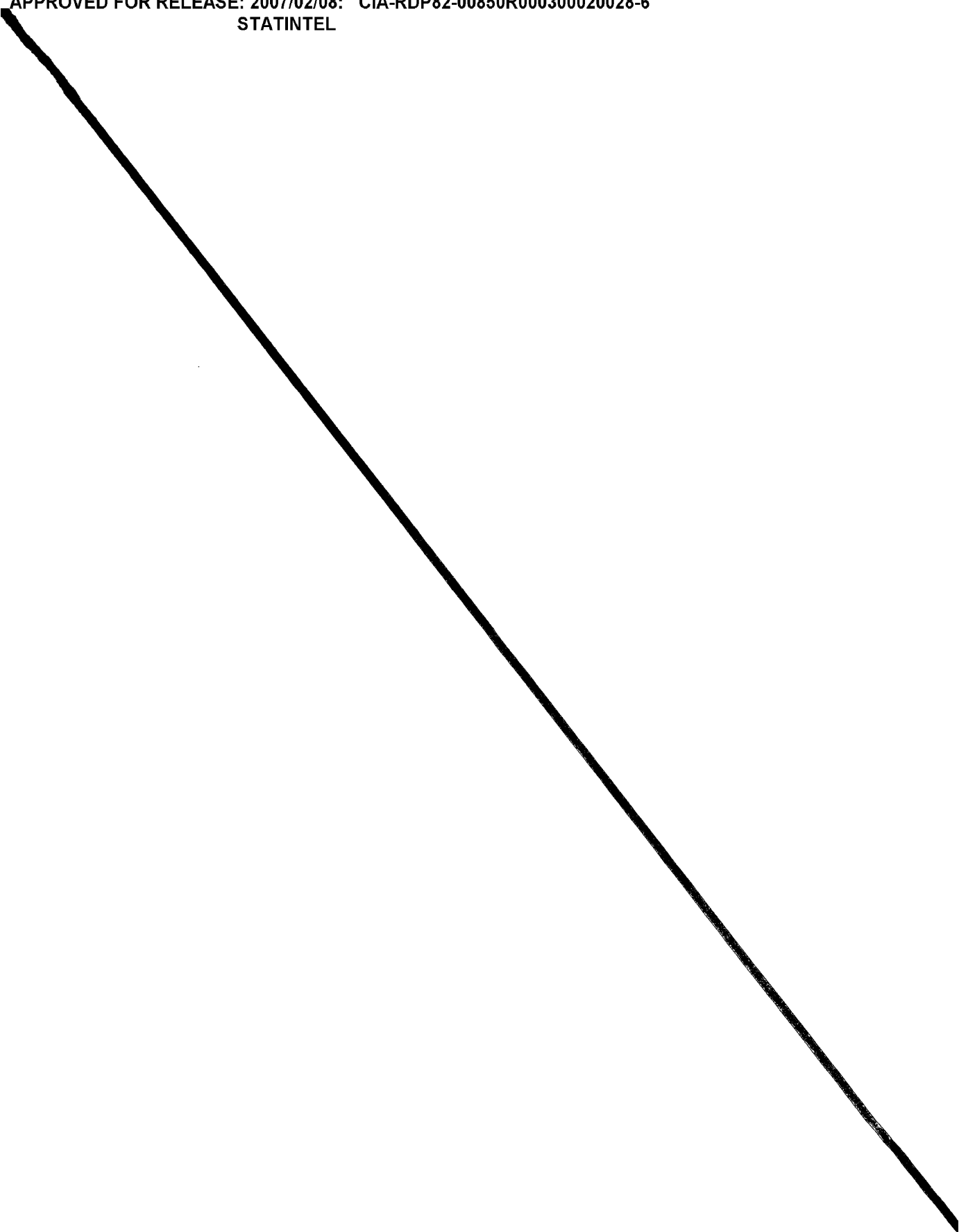
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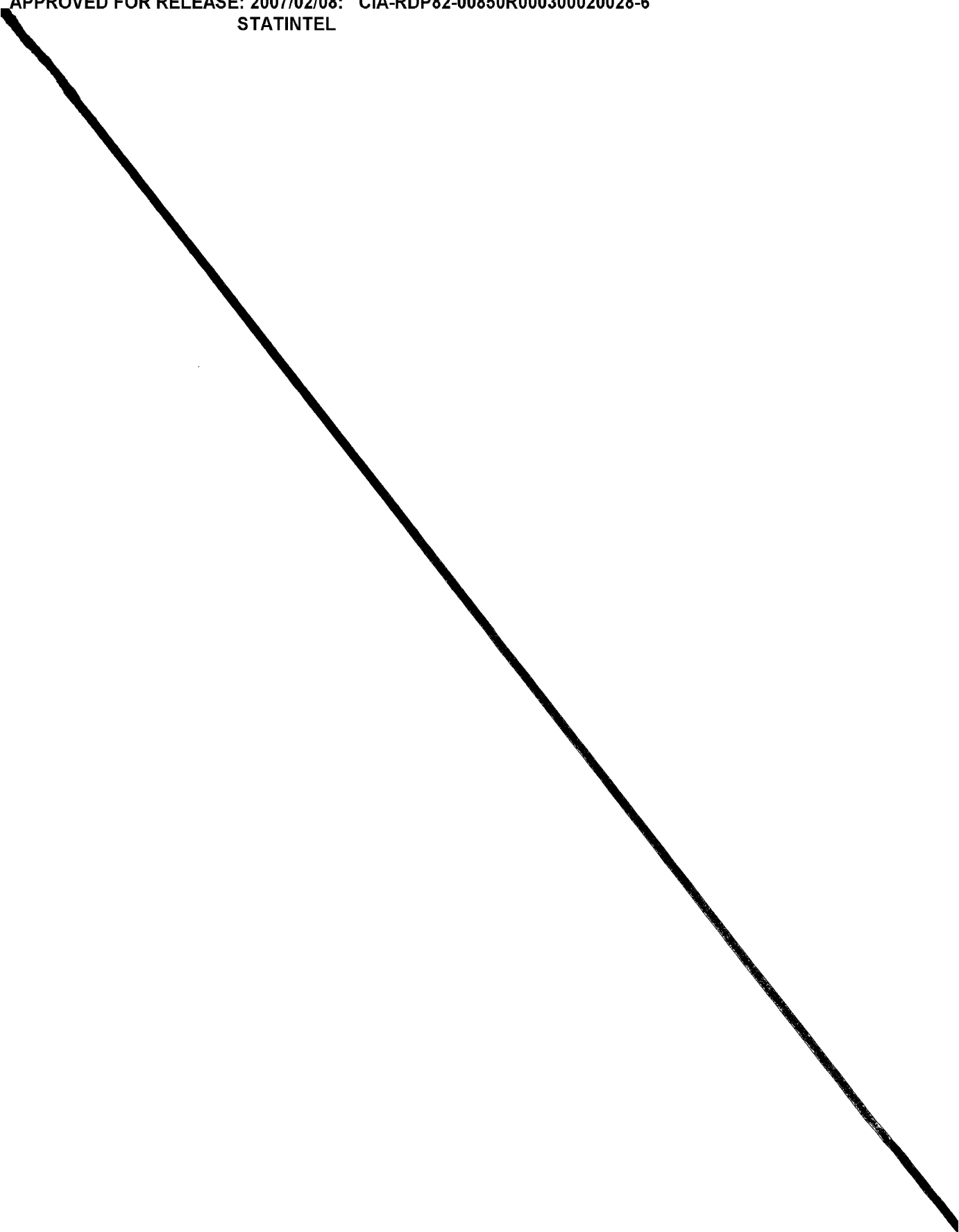


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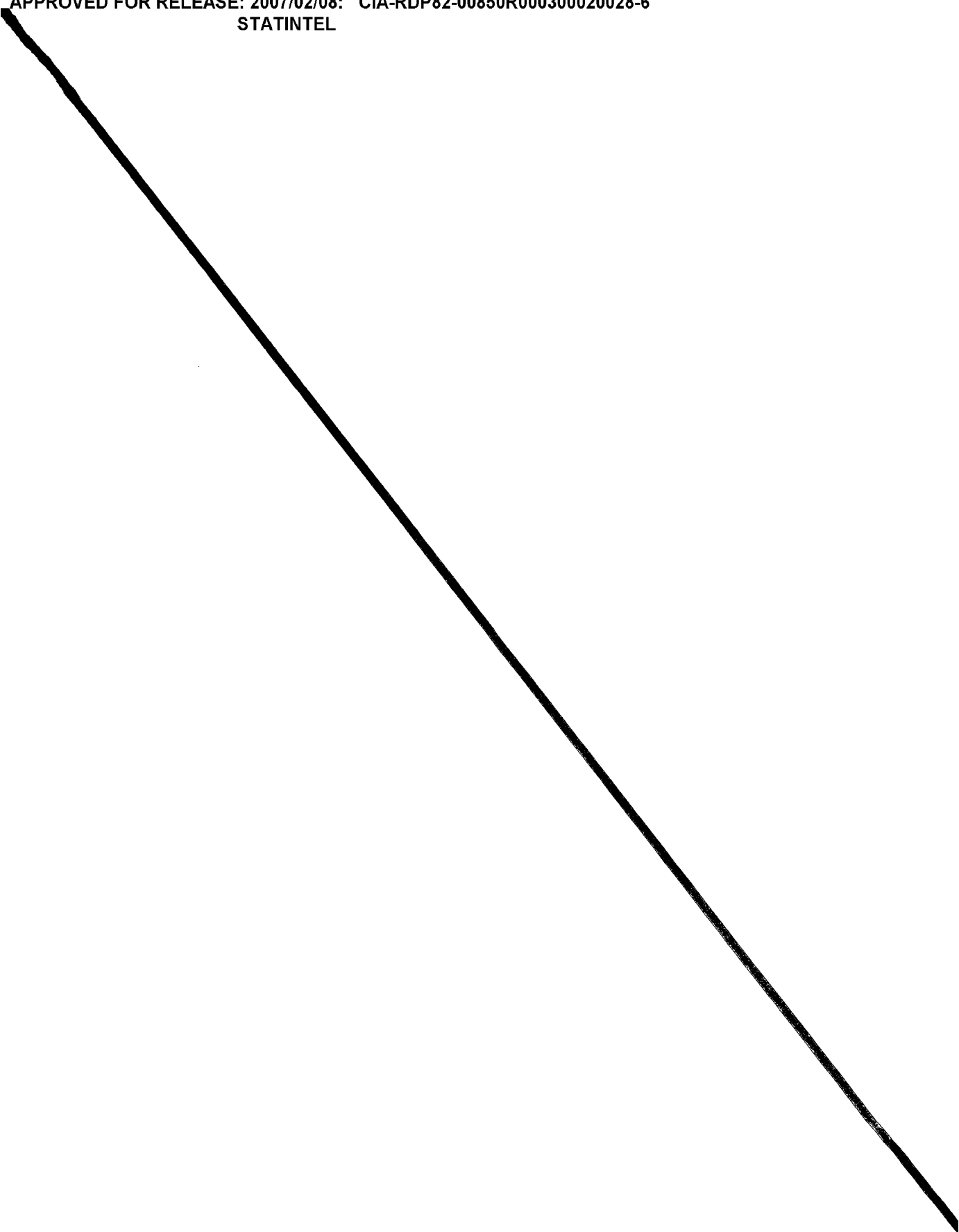
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