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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



August 14, 1958

TO : Mr. Otto Gathe
Chief, Office of Research and Reports
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Geographic Intelligence Report International Boundaries in Latin America

Reference is made to the Agency's publication CIA/RR-0-20 of March, 1958, International Boundaries in Latin America. Page 93 of this report covers the Ecuador - Peru boundary and under the heading, "Problem area," discusses the location of the disputed Santiago - Zamora sector. The Department feels that the latitudes shown correctly delimit the area where no markers have been placed, however the distance involved in the unmarked stretch is eighty kilometers, and not eighty miles as stated in the report.

On the same page of CIA/RR-0-20 there appears the following statement: "No markers have been established in the first area - where the boundary is supposed to follow the divide between the Rio Zamora and the Rio Santiago - because actually there are two divides separated by the Rio Cenepa." In point of fact, the present impasse over the boundary results from Ecuadorian allegations that there are two watersheds separated by the Rio Cenepa and that the Protocol is, therefore, impossible of fulfillment. There remains an uncertainty as to the actual geographic facts. This uncertainty was not resolved by the aerial photographic work accomplished by the USAF between 1943 and 1946, and it was partly for this reason that the Guarantors proposed an aerial survey of the region in May 1956.

It would be more accurate for the sentences discussed above to read as follows:

"No markers have been established in the first area - where the boundary is supposed to follow the divide between the Rio Zamora and Rio Santiago - because Ecuador alleges that there are actually two divides separated by the Rio Cenepa and that the Rio Protocol of 1942 is, therefore, impossible of fulfillment in this sector. As yet, no agreement has been reached about an adjustment in this 80-kilometer (50-mile) stretch."

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The Department considers that no statement such as that now contained in International Boundaries in Latin America regarding the two divides should be attributed to the United States Government.

Steven D. Zagorski
Chief, OIA Liaison Branch
Division of Intelligence Collection
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