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16 April 1947

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Assistant Director, Reports & Estimates

THROUGH: Chief, Intelligence Staff, ORE

SUBJECT: Situation Reports on Latin America

1. For planning purposes, Situation Reports on Latin America have been tentatively scheduled for production beginning in September 1947. After study of this problem, however, the Chief of the Latin American Branch has advised the Projects Division that at the present time and in the foreseeable future it will be impossible to produce even reasonably adequate Situation Reports on Latin America, for the following reasons:

a. A serious shortage of personnel experienced or qualified on this area. In contrast to other areas generally, very few Americans have lived or travelled in Latin America or studied this area.

b. A lack of even the most basic elements of intelligence information on practically every country in Latin America. This appears to be a consequence of both a general lack of interest in the area and a preoccupation with only rigidly restricted aspects of the situation. Experience and discussion indicates that improvement in this situation through activities in the participating departments is unlikely in the near future.

2. Under these unusual circumstances, unusual methods appear justified and necessary to enable ORE to produce Situation Reports on Latin America which will be worthy of CIG. Accordingly the following plan, which the Chief of the Latin American Branch feels certain will produce the desired results, is recommended as a CIG project:

a. Detail from CIG one P-6 and one P-3 to the US Embassy in each of the following countries for a period of four months: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Chile. Their mission, after careful briefing in ORE, will be to prepare, from sources and material available locally, a Situation

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Approved For Release 2000/08/23 : CIA-RDP67-00059A000400100030-3

Report on each of these countries, including the documentation upon which the Reports are based. The Reports and the documentary material will be reviewed and published upon return of the personnel to Washington.

b. Either concurrently with or subsequent to **a** above, detail from CIG one P-5 to the US Embassy in each of the following countries for four months, with similar missions: Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru.

g. Based upon the experience of **a** and **b** above, plan subsequently the best method for producing Situation Reports on the following lower-priority areas: Central America, Caribbean area, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador, the Guianas.

3. The above plan would simultaneously result in the following important benefits to CIG:

a. The personnel carefully recruited would have first-hand current and complete knowledge of the countries and would thus be eminently qualified as the ORE specialists on these countries.

b. The documentary material which they procured would furnish ORE with necessary file information which apparently cannot be obtained in any other way.

g. CIG would produce Situation Reports on this area of a superior quality which cannot be remotely approached at present or in the near future by any other means.

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