

PRESS ITEM FOR THE DCI

A S W T F

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(FBI)

WASHINGTON--DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TODAY DENIED A REPORT OF A SHARP INCREASE IN FBI ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA.

HE TERMED THE REPORT "UNTRUE AND IRRESPONSIBLE."

THE REPORT IN QUESTION SAID PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAD SENT FBI AGENTS INTO AT LEAST EIGHT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO AUGMENT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

HOOVER SAID THE ONLY INCREASE IN FBI ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA CAME WHEN JOHNSON ORDERED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FBI AND THE CIA IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LAST SUMMER.

"THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS WHATEVER TO THE FBI WITH RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION IN LATIN AMERICA," HOOVER STATED.

THE REPORT SAID JOHNSON ORDERED THE FBI INTO ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA WHEN HE BECAME UPSET WITH THE CIA'S INEFFECTIVENESS IN THAT AREA.

HOOVER SAID THE FBI MAINTAINS A NUMBER OF LIAISON POSTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WITH LOCAL POLICE FORCES RELATING ONLY TO THE DOMESTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES OF THE BUREAU.

HE SAID HE HAD MADE EXISTANCE OF THESE OFFICES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE LAST MARCH 4.

ACCORDING TO THAT TESTIMONY, THE FBI MAINTAINS LIAISON OFFICES IN MEXICO CITY, RIO DE JANEIRO AND BUENOS AIRES. THE OFFICES IN MEXICO AND RIO DE JANEIRO HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR MANY YEARS. THE BUENOS AIRES OFFICE WAS OPENED WHEN THE FBI'S OFFICE IN MADRID WAS CLOSED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.