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## Growing Evidence Puts Guevara in South America

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BUENOS AIRES, July 8—Circumstantial evidence is piling up that Maj. Ernesto Che Guevara, the guerrilla warfare theorist, is alive, probably somewhere on the South American continent.

Most of the evidence is being collected by Latin-American military intelligence services with the help of United States and British experts. What has been gathered so far has all but convinced many Latin-American intelligence departments that Major Guevara, who disappeared 28 months ago from Cuba, was directing the training of Communist guerrillas in South America.

As late as three months ago the attitude of most American intelligence experts was cautious. One high-ranking United States diplomat summed it up a few days ago by saying, "This is one of those produce-the-hay-for-us situations."

### Experts Skepticism Now

But for no body, the United States intelligence agencies are now a good deal less skeptical about the possibility that Major Guevara is active. One United States diplomat with access to such intelligence information said recently that "there is better than a 50-50 chance, it seems now, that Che is going to pop up somewhere."

Major Guevara dropped out of sight in March or April of 1965 after completing a trip through Africa and Asia and to the United Nations in New York. He was then Cuba's Minister of Industry.

Premier Fidel Castro has said publicly on several occasions since that Major Guevara is alive and pursuing "revolutionary tasks" somewhere in the world.

The outbreak of guerrilla activity in the jungles of southeastern Bolivia last April, along with previously received word of movements of guerrilla bands from Peru and Venezuela toward South America's rugged interior, put new emphasis on the secret search for Major Guevara.

Diplomats and intelligence experts, both from Latin Amer-

### Bolivian General Believes Guerrilla Leader May Be Training Rebels Now

ica and the United States, now feel that the guerrilla bands known to be operating in the Andean mountain chain are under excellent Guevara-like direction.

The most vigorous proponent of the theory that Major Guevara is alive and has been, or still is, in Bolivia is Gen. Alfredo Ovando, the commander in chief of the Bolivian armed forces. He has told newsmen that he is "absolutely sure" that Major Guevara was in his country in March and may be there still. As proof, he has shown newsmen a private book of sketches of a beardless man with a striking resemblance to Major Guevara.

General Ovando says the

sketches, drawn by police experts, were suggested by descriptions given by Bolivian peasants.

General Ovando has said that the man who looks like Major Guevara bears the code name "Ramón" and that his accent, general physical appearance as the missing guerrilla leader.

Argentine intelligence officials are taking a special interest because Major Guevara was born near Buenos Aires and the Bolivian guerrillas are operating close to the Argentine frontier.

Argentine sources say that the Argentine State Intelligence Service is convinced not only that Major Guevara has been in Bolivia but also that he passed through Buenos Aires in April. There have been reports from Uruguay that Guevara, who is 39 years old, seen about the same time at Carrasco Airport in Montevideo, with his dark hair dyed blond.