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Assistant Director for Operations

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Acting Chief, PSIB

Foreign Radio Reactions to Bogota Events

1. Although monitored broadcasts indicate widespread foreign press attention to the Bogota events, except for those from Latin American transmitters the monitored broadcasts themselves show little tendency to concentrate on the subject. And with the exception of Soviet satellite transmissions attempting to exploit the situation in terms of near-successful Latin American opposition to U.S. "imperialism" and of a Spanish press opinion that "the so-called 'democracies' have once more shown their complete incapacity to combat the aggressors," the broadcast interpretations do not speculate on or even consider the subject of a possible American "loss of face." Rather, the majority opinion expressed in monitored broadcasts (again excepting those from the USSR and her satellites) is that the Bogota situation represents simply another of the ubiquitous Soviet-sponsored attempts to torpedo western unity.

2. COMMUNIST INSTIGATION: In discussions of its origin, the considerable number of monitored broadcasts from Latin American transmitters all take the position that the Bogota uprising was initiated and engineered by the Communists at the behest of Moscow. Statements pointing to the need for heightened precautions against further Communist provocative actions in Latin America are frequent and Columbia's reported break with the Soviet Union is welcomed.

Reports of Swiss, Belgian, and Spanish press reaction likewise place the blame on Communist attempts to thwart the Bogota Conference. Many Swiss papers are said to "see in the reaction brought on by the revolutionary attempts a new step in the anti-Communist trend in South America"; and the Madrid paper YA hopes that the Bogota "warning... will impart to the decisions of the White House a clearly defined diplomacy and energy that they have lacked up to now."

3. DOMESTIC CHARACTER OF THE UPRISING: French reaction, represented to date by monitored Paris radio reviews of CE SOIR and LE MONDE, is less ready to attribute the uprising to Communist action. According to "the Communist-sympathizing CE SOIR, 'the insurrection is interpreted as a popular reaction against the conservative and pro-American policy of Dr. Pa... and 'the opinion of LE MONDE (Moderate) is not noticeably different from that of the Communist-sympathizing paper.' (Paris, in French... China, 10 April) Noting that "the Marxists have been able to take advantage of the situation," LE MONDE's Washington correspondent cautions that "it appears risky to charge them a priori with all the sins of Israel. The Communists are an infinitesimal minority in Colombia.... It is at the very roots of the economic and social structure of this country that we must look for the cause of sedition movements...." And Britain's MARSHES GUARDIAN interprets the Bogota events as a slap in the face to the "slaves of Latin America. The democratic progress has obviously not reached the high point of development which the leaders of Latin America would

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like to have us believe. ... This revolt must remind us that the political crust of these regions is very thin."

4. OPPOSITION TO AMERICAN "IMPERIALISM": "A revolution of left-wing liberals against U.S. imperialism"—"symbolizes the hatred of all the people of Latin American towards the Wall Street magnates"—"opposition... to American economic and political demands"; this is the way monitored broadcasts from the Soviet satellites (Budapest and Yugoslav radios, and TELEPRESS from Prague) characterize the Bogota events. Political observers in London are said to "hold the view that a grave injury has been inflicted on American prestige," Bogota is cited as an "example... illustrating how little leading American politicians knew of the internal developments of other countries and how weak and uncertain were the reactionary governments upon which U.S. foreign policy relied," the State Department is jeered at for going "48 hours without any official version to offer of exactly what had happened," and the resumption of Conference sessions at Bogota is called "an attempt to make the most of the anti-Communist hysteria wave now being spread throughout Latin America by U.S. diplomats and agents."

5. SOVIET VERSION: As for Moscow itself, both TARE dispatches and voice broadcasts report the Bogota events in terms of an internal struggle between liberals and reactionaries. Moscow shies away from attributing international significance of any kind to the uprising, except for calling rumors concerning the participation of Soviet agents in the events "absurd inventions,... spread for purposes inimical to the Soviet Union." Regarding the reported Colombian break with the USSR, Moscow merely notes that "New York and London broadcasting stations" have been "spreading information" to this effect, but that the Soviet "Ministry of Foreign Affairs was unable during the last few days to get in touch with the Soviet mission in Bogota from which no answers to inquiries from Moscow have been received for several days."

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