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3 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-70: Conditions and Trends in Latin America
Affecting US Security

BACKGROUND

1. A general estimate of the situation in Latin America was projected in the Estimates Program for 1952. The actual initiation of NIE-70 was in response to an oral expression of NSC interest in an evaluation of both the Communist and the Peronist threat to US interests in the region.

2. NIE-70 is necessarily directed toward generalization regarding conditions and trends of importance in relation to the region as a whole. It does not deal with special situations of local significance, nor does it estimate the probability of specific developments in particular national situations. Such particulars can be adequately treated only in estimates addressed to particular situations.

3. Even as confined to general conditions and trends, the estimate is necessarily lengthy, despite every effort to achieve compression.

4. NIE-70 is important as the first national estimate on Latin America as a whole. The region has been relatively neglected since about 1942.

SUBSTANCE

5. The estimate is fully agreed by the IAC representatives except for two issues which State raised for the first time at the "cleanup" stage. The Board and the four Service representatives have rejected these State proposals. Mr. Armstrong may raise them again at the IAC.

6. The first issue concerns paragraph 32, which was proposed by State and tentatively accepted at the "cleanup" session on 1 December. After checking the facts, however, the Board

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and Service representatives, at a second "cleanup" session, agreed that the paragraph should be deleted. In brief, State wants to make a vague reference to Trotskyist influence among the Bolivian tin miners, but is unwilling to say that this Trotskyist influence is predominant among the miners or significant in Bolivian politics, or even that the Trotskyists are the principal Communist faction in Bolivia. The Board and Service representatives hold that, unless some such showing can be made, Trotskyism in Bolivia is a local and incidental matter and that the situation is properly covered by the generalizations in paragraphs 31 and 33. They therefore recommend that paragraph 32 be deleted.

7. The second issue is raised by State's proposal, made as late as 3 December, to amend the second sentence of paragraph 58 to read: "There would, however, be great reluctance, and in some cases a flat refusal, to permit the entry of US ground forces...." Admitting that there would be some flat refusals if the question were raised now, the Service representatives, the Board concurring, are unwilling to predict such a refusal as certain in any case after the outbreak of global war (the possible exception of Argentina having already been noted). The present reference to "great reluctance" is deemed by them to be the proper term to indicate the generally negative attitude, regarding which all are agreed.

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