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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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1 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Nicholas deB Katzenbach
Under Secretary of State

SUBJECT : Attached Memorandum, "The Political Role
of the Military in Latin America"

Here is a memorandum which was recently discussed and forwarded to me by the Board of National Estimates, not with complete agreement on every point but as a possible help to updating our views of a somewhat controversial subject. I pass it on in the same spirit.

The memorandum argues that in recent years the military establishments of Latin America have been undergoing more political and social change than is generally recognized. It develops the thesis that questions of military versus civilian control of Latin governments have risen in such a variety of situations, with such widely varying motives and performance on the part of both military and civilian elements, and with such a variety of consequences, that it is no longer useful to make broad generalizations as to the nature and value of the military's political role.

(s) Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

Attachment WPA | 6-2-68

Identical memo and Attachment sent to:

- Covey T. Oliver
- William Bowdler
- Walt Rostow
- Sol M. Linowitz
- Paul H. Nitze
- Paul C. Warnke

BNE: [] (30 Apr)

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31 May 1968

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called today, to get 4 copies
of this memo, to be sent to:

Chairman, JCS

Administrator, AID

Director, USIS

SIGINT

mac

*5 June - 4 cpy to Elizabeth Hyman
Rm 7830 State*