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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Geography Division, ORR  
Project Initiation Memorandum

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To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No. 66.1470

From: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 2 October 1956

1. Subject of Proposed Project: Assessment of Petroleum Potential in Latin America.
2. Statement of Problem: (Outline attached)  
To determine: a. How much oil is presently being produced in Latin America; b. the proven and estimated reserves; and c. the extent to which these reserves can be utilized in the near future.
3. Requester: Self-initiated. 25X1A
4. Responsible Analyst: [Redacted] Western Hemisphere Branch 25X1A
5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired from:
  - a. Other divisions of the Geographic Area: D/GC and D/GL for maps.
  - b. [Redacted]
  - c. Other parts of CIA: CIA Library, Industrial Register, Graphics Register, and Materials Division, ORR
  - d. Outside CIA: Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce; Library of Congress facilities; and Department of State Petroleum Staff
6. Estimated Man Hours: 180 professional hours
7. Probable Completion Date: November 1956
8. Probable Form of Final Publication: Not determined.
9. Comments: A shorter deadline would be desirable because of the current interest in world petroleum resources (due to the Middle East crises), but the time already committed to other work and the complexity of the subject dictate the November deadline.

DOCUMENT NO. 2  
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
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 NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUTH: HR 70-2  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEWER: 006514  
 CIA/RR-G-17

25X1A

[Redacted]

Chief, Geography Division

25X1A

Approved:

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, Geographic Research

8 Oct 1956  
Date

25X1A

Assistant Director, ORR

Date

*tentatively approved pending results of discussions with [Redacted] on already completed studies on subject. ORR*

*Approved by Guthe 12 Oct 1956.*

OCT 1956  
c/ch/G

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Outline for Project 66.1470: Assessment of Petroleum Potential in Latin America

- I. Latin American Petroleum: Summary and conclusions based on more detailed information in body of report. Essential questions to be answered: How much oil is presently being produced (actual amount and share of world production); what are the proven reserves: can these reserves be utilized in the near future?
  
- II. For each oil-producing country:
  - A. Brief resumé of the development of the petroleum industry. Is it well established, or a new development? Who started it--U.S., other foreign, or native companies; what companies?
  - B. How much oil has been produced in the past and how much now? i.e., current rate of production. Actual amount and share of world production.
  - C. Estimated future production: estimated and proven reserves; ability to utilize these reserves.
  - D. Refineries: How many, current rate of production; capacity; plans for building new refineries and/or expansion of current facilities.
  - E. Market: Domestic--present and future requirements; foreign--U.S. and/or other.