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June 6, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group (CI) Meeting  
2 p.m., Thursday, June 6, 1963

PRESENT: Mr. Johnson vice Governor Harriman, The Attorney General,  
Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. McCone, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Coffin  
vice Mr. Bell, General Krulak vice General Taylor

Mr. Hilsman and Mr. Colby were present for Item No. 1.

Mr. Thompson, Colonel King, Mr. Engle and Mr. Harrison were  
present for Item No. 2.

Mr. Meyer was present for Item No. 3.

Mr. Maechling and Mr. Nolan were present for the meeting.

1. Special Report - Mr. Forrestal

The Group received an oral briefing on this item. No papers were  
circulated.

2. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Colombia

Mr. Thompson, Deputy Director, Office of West Coast Affairs, reviewed  
the progress report on the Internal Defense Plan and commented on recent  
developments in Colombia since the last report was considered by the  
Group. He stated that the threats remain unchanged but progress has been  
made in suppressing violence. The rate of deaths from bandit violence for  
the first quarter of 1963 is about 20% below the same period a year ago.  
Military pressure has localized violence in the central areas. Bandit  
casualties have increased, including 12 bandit leaders killed. The civic  
action program is going well. In response to Mr. McCone's question, Mr.  
Thompson stated that the Colombian Government has recently resubmitted a  
judicial reform bill to the Congress and a favorable action is expected.

Colonel King, in presenting his observations on the situation in  
Colombia, remarked that civilian casualties are still about 10 times greater  
than military or police casualties. Helicopters have been effectively  
employed in operations against bandit groups. An encouraging development  
is that the civilian population is overcoming its fear of the bandit groups  
and is taking a more active role to support the government's efforts to  
suppress violence. He pointed out that a major problem is the control of  
subversive elements who enter the country after training in Cuba. Mr.  
Thompson interjected that the Ambassador is aware of this problem.

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The Group discussed the Colombian Government's proposed reduction in police forces and observed that this development appears to be undesirable in view of the existing violence situation. Mr. Engle commented that he has been informed that the Colombian Government plans to go ahead with this reduction as the Defense Ministry decided to make this cut in the police rather than the military.

The Group agreed that State, Defense and AID should look into this matter to determine what steps can be taken to discourage this action.

The Group, in approving the progress report, noted that no amendment to the IDP or additional resources were requested by the Country Team.

### 3. Report on Communist Infiltration into Student Groups in Latin America.

Mr. Meyer presented an oral briefing summarizing the findings of the interdepartmental working group on Communist infiltration into student groups in Latin America. He described the political, nationalistic and other environmental factors affecting students and pointed out typical Communist methods and tactics. He commented on efforts by various Government agencies to counter the Communist effort.

Mr. Murrow commented that a Coordinator of Youth Affairs has been established within the Country Teams and has the responsibility to work closely with student groups. He cited several examples of how other USIA programs are designed to incorporate youth and student group activities.

The Attorney General stated that student groups in Latin America are one of our great problems and we are making progress but more can be done.

At the suggestion of the Attorney General and Mr. McCone, the Group requested that Mr. Battle be requested to explore what can be done to encourage the development of local civic organizations to work with student groups. State was also requested to make existing IDP's available to Mr. Battle for ~~organization~~ utilization of their youth and informational sections.

Mr. Meyer was requested to report back to the Group at the June 20 meeting and present his ideas of what additional measures should be considered relative to youth and political actions in Latin America. Others present were also asked to contribute their ideas on this subject.

### 4. Revised Instructions on the Preparation of Internal Defense Plans.

The Group approved the draft airgram submitted by State revising instructions on the format for Internal Defense Plans.

The Group discussed whether a need exists for countries not under the cognizance of the Group to prepare Internal Defense Plans. At the recommendation of the Attorney General, the Group requested that State and JCS representatives consider State's country strategic studies program and in the light of this, make recommendations on which, if any, additional countries should be required to prepare plans.

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The Group agreed that countries under the cognizance of the Group should continue to submit quarterly progress reports. The Country Teams should be informed that these reports should be as brief as possible and if developments so indicate, a negative report can be submitted.

*James W. Dingeman*  
James W. Dingeman  
Executive Secretary  
Special Group (CI)

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