COUNTRY Argentina

DATE:

SUBJECT New System of Identification Proposed by Peron

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CHOOLEMENT

SOURCE

- 1. President Peron intends to cancel all Cedulas de Identidad (identification cards) of the present type, according to a source considered reliable. He will institute a Registro de Vecindad (neighborhood registry) where all Argentines and foreign residents will be photographed, fingerprinted, and issued an identification card bearing a case history of the bearer. The new forms are now being prepared by the Congressional printing shop.
- 2. For the past thirty years or more Argentine police authorities have issued Codulas de Identidad to native Argentines and foreigners with a permanent residence permit for Argentina. These cedulas contain the bearer's name, date of birth, physical description, photograph, fingerprints and other pertinent data.
- 3. These identification cards have become increasingly important. They must be presented when seeking a position and, in many cases, when dealing with banks and business houses. Agreements between Argentina and Uruguay enable those possessing identification cards issued at least two years previously to travel without passports or visas between the two countries. The same agreement existed between Argentina and Paraguay until the outbreak of the recent civil war in Paraguay.
- h. The Asociacion Defensa Social Argentina, a political organization founded a year ago by Argentine Nationalist Army and Navy officers and local businessmen and considered to be an intelligence agency, is reported to have suggested the change of system to President Peron. General Bertollo, Chief of the Federal Police, strongly favors the idea.

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Comment: The ramifications offered by the proposed system are numerous and varied. The fact that the new cards will bear a case history will reveal whether the bearer has a police record or if he is suspected of subversive activities. Opponents of the present government, however, probably will be classed as Communists. This is the common practice of the Argentine police. The government is expected to use the proposed new system to harass and hinder its political opponents and to smother opposition.

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