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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY **Paraguay**

DATE DISTR. **4 June 1948**

SUBJECT **Paraguayan President Deposed by Military Coup**

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DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

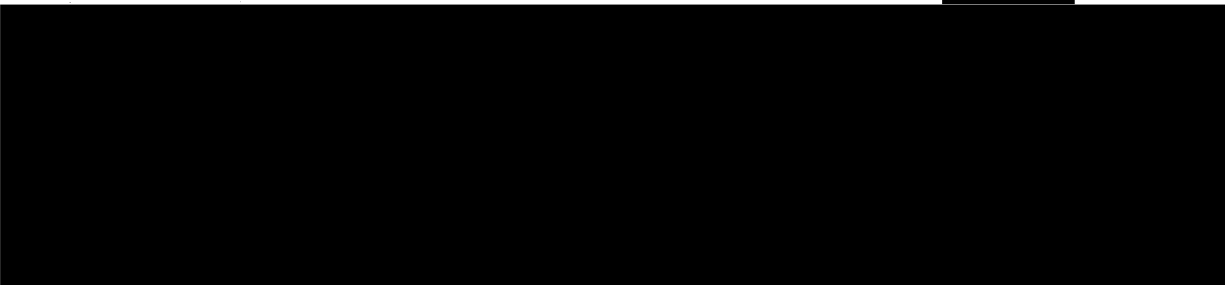
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1. The alignment of forces in the military coup d'etat of 3 June in Paraguay surprised many political observers. It is believed by competent observers that ex-President Higinio Morinigo* and President-elect Natalicio Gonzalez might well have been ousted in the same coup. These men have been leading the two principal opposing groups in Paraguay's political setup. One factor appears to be evident at the present time: the coup, which was first thought to have been successful for the extreme Colorados, is turning out to be a victory for the center group of Colorados.
2. Extremist Liberato Rodriguez, Chief of Police, rallying behind him his police force and a group of key military men including Major Adalberto Canatta**, Colonel Rogelio Benitez, Carlos Montonaro, and apparently Colonel Alfredo Stroessner, led the coup and demanded the resignation of Morinigo. Minister of Foreign Affairs Cesar Vasconellos and Minister of Education Mario Ferrario were jailed; Minister of Interior Victor Morinigo and Colonel Enrique Jimenez were put under house arrest. Natalicio Gonzalez, now definitely out of favor with the group in control, may be under house arrest. All had sided with the ex-President against Rodriguez.

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Comment: Ex-President Morinigo may be exiled on 4 June.

Canatta, the principal leader of the military group supporting Rodriguez, appears to wield greater influence than Rodriguez, his personal friend. Canatta holds a more or less center position, between the extreme Colorados and the so-called Democratic Colorados. Canatta was ousted last November when Gonzalez was nominated for the presidency.

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