

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Argentina/Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 6 July 1948

SUBJECT Commercial Relations between Argentina and Soviet Satellite Nations

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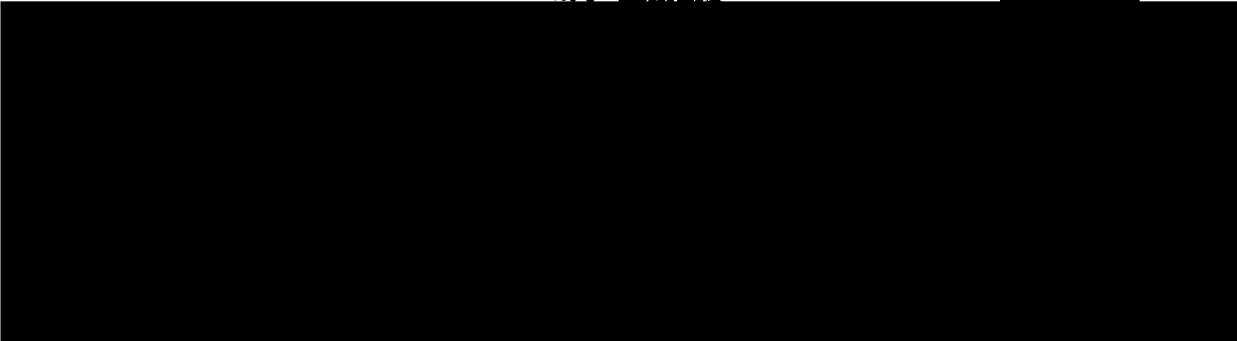
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- As a result of Argentina's current shortage of dollars, the Argentine Government will be forced to purchase or barter with Soviet satellite nations for her much needed oil-drilling and mining equipment. Several European petroleum experts and technicians have recently been contracted by the Argentine Government to assist in the development of the Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF). Many of these experts, some of whom are from Czechoslovakia, are bringing their own well-drilling equipment with them. Jozef Skamletz, Hungarian mineral expert who arrived in Argentina aboard the Yugoslav ship Partizanka and who brought technical mining equipment with him, has been employed by the Argentine Government.
- Dr. Leopoldo Chmela and Zdenek Blazej, officials of the Czechoslovak National Bank who arrived in Buenos Aires 9 June 1948 to discuss provisions for trade expansion between Czechoslovakia and Argentina, were said to have been well received by the Argentine officials during their brief stay in Argentina. President Peron offered his private plane to take the Czech representatives on a tour of Argentina; the offer was rejected, however, because of the representatives' lack of time. They departed from Buenos Aires 17 June 1948 to return to Prague. Chmela will return in August to conclude negotiations on the Argentine-Czech commercial treaty.
- While in Buenos Aires, Chmela conferred with Stefan Szumowski, Polish Minister in Argentina. They agreed that their respective countries should not enter into competition for Argentine trade, as that would be injurious to both of their countries.
- Argentina is considering negotiations with the satellite nations to obtain military equipment.
- [REDACTED] Argentine official functions honoring the Soviet and satellite representatives stationed in Argentina will be considerably increased.

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