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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

The President of Uruguay recently held a conference with his diplomatic chiefs of missions in other Latin American countries. On the opening day of the conference, 28 October, President Luis Batlle Berres addressed the assembly and presided over the business meeting which followed. On 29 October a banquet was held in honor of the diplomats. A synopsis of the remarks made by the President follows. Source states that this report is complete and that no other subjects than these summarized were touched upon.

1. The President began his speech by stating that the conference was not prompted by reasons of greatest gravity, but rather by a series of circumstances requiring a great deal of thought on everyone's part.
2. In the international scene, Uruguay hears friendly words, but in spite of this, behind the screen of flattery, Uruguay actually is often forgotten and ignored. Batlle Berres told the group that a short time before the meeting he had received a cable from the Uruguayan delegation to the UN Assembly in Paris concerning a Latin American bloc formed among Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Peru, and headed by Argentina for her own exclusive benefit. Uruguay was deliberately excluded from this group.
3. Analyzing the reasons which the member countries of the Latin American bloc might have for excluding Uruguay, the President concluded that only Argentina could have any interest in barring Uruguay. Peron's government is annoyed with Uruguay because it has been unable to interfere with her economy and financial affairs. Nor is Uruguay liked for her friendship with the United States.
4. Elaborating on Argentina's interest in financial penetration of Uruguay, Batlle Berres declared that, in spite of the former's proximity, she has not been able to ruin the latter's monetary system, and Uruguay's present situation is far better than Argentina's. As an example of Argentine intentions to intervene in Uruguay's economy, the President revealed that a few months ago Miguel Miranda, President of Argentina's National Economic Council, came to him to propose that Uruguay and Argentina unite to sell flax for more than the fixed international price. Batlle Berres told Miranda that he could not accept such a proposition since to maintain prestige in the international market Uruguay had to sell her flax without

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-2-

exceeding the present prices. The President added "Tell your President that I, in my country, punish merchants who violate official price regulations, and I do not wish to put myself in such a position that the world would have to punish me for selling above international prices." Miranda answered "All right, you have 800 tons of flax which at X price will yield X pesos. Tomorrow I will bring you a check and buy all your flax." "That is very interesting," Batlle Berres replied to Miranda, and ended the interview. The President immediately dictated a decree prohibiting the exportation of flax.

5. Batlle Berres then returned to the subject of the Latin American bloc formed in the UN Assembly. According to reports, the bloc was so tightly organized that, at first, the Uruguayan delegation thought it best not to attend any meetings of the Latin American countries. Fortunately, the attitude prevailed that the Uruguayan delegation should open the bloc and penetrate it.
6. Argentine leadership of this bloc would not be so serious were it not for the fact that such leadership is far from beneficial to the peace of America in its obvious lack of democracy and in its denial of the freedoms of the press, assembly, and speech. Observing the general situation in America, Batlle Berres pointed out, the individual's concern should increase, for it seems that democracy in Uruguay bothers non-democratic countries; it is like the one pretty girl, in a group of homely ones, who suddenly becomes undesirable.
7. The danger existing in Argentina becomes more and more evident in articles of that country's government press and in the statements of various important Peronistas. In a lecture before students of the University of Buenos Aires recently, Dr. Lucio Mamel Moreno Quintana, Professor of International Law at the University and former Sub-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, declared: "The Republic of Argentina should include Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and the southern part of Brazil; that is to say, the old 'Virreinato' of the Rio de la Plata. The day when we reconquer these territories will be a glorious one for all Argentines. Our greatest desire should be to regain that which belongs to us. If the United States wants to be the boss of the North, we will be the boss of the South."
8. The President recalled an article published by the Herrerista Senator, Victor Haedo, in an ultra-nationalist Argentine magazine, which asserted that South America should be divided into three groups: Greater Colombia ("La Gran Colombia"), to include Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; Brazil; and Argentina, to include Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay.
9. The President warned the attending diplomats to use the long-distance telephone as little as possible, explaining that the telephone lines run through Argentina, who is always greatly interested in listening in on anything concerning Uruguay. He further cautioned the chiefs of mission to be on guard with respect to the news agency ANA (Agencia Noticiosa Argentina), which the Argentine Government, with great effort, is setting up in every country in the world and especially in South America. The motto of this agency is "La Argentina para el mundo y el mundo para la Argentina". The President advised the ministers to use the United Press or the Associated Press news services, neither of which are in the pay of the Argentine Government.
10. Batlle Berres contended that the Argentine diplomats pay for reports in foreign newspapers, and that in Bogota the local papers spoke more about the Argentine delegation than about their own Colombian delegation. The President was supported in this contention by Nelson Garcia Serrato, Uruguayan Minister to Portugal, and Ramon Piriz Coelho, Uruguayan Minister to Colombia, the latter of whom referred to the traveling Argentine "Embassies" -- some as ridiculous as the Embajada del Tango -- now covering the world and spreading Peronista and anti-U.S. propaganda.
11. Touching only lightly on the subject of Communism, Batlle Berres said that the fight against Communism was being waged by the various governments of America not only as a matter of principle, but as a result of customs and the manner in which each individual government handles its internal affairs.

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SECRET
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-3-

He pointed out that Chile, Brazil, and other countries can take drastic action without being affected by protests on the part of the people, and without consulting the people, for these governments have unions of parties which support them in the anti-Communist struggle. In Uruguay, however, this type of action is not possible, since the most conservative elements are those who would oppose the Government if it should take violent action against Communism. The President added that if he were to take such measures against Communism, he would not even be sure of the support of members of his own party.

12. In closing, the President advised his chiefs of missions to speak out without alarm, but nevertheless clearly, about the Argentine-directed bloc in the UN. He directed his representatives to make every effort to create a favorable atmosphere for the incorporation of Uruguay into this bloc.

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