

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 4 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Political Situation in Colombia

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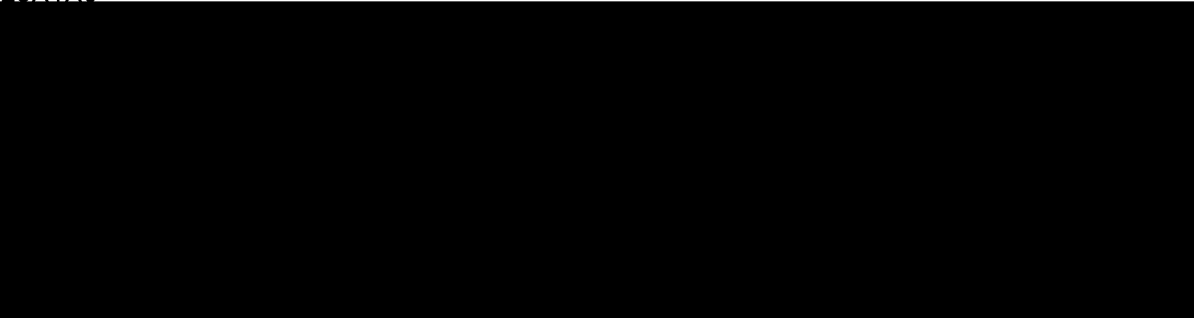
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1. The directorates of the Liberal and Conservative Parties of Colombia met with the President to draft plans to control political violence, but were reported to have been unsuccessful. Political violence has continued, and the press of each party has increased its irresponsible reporting, condemning the activities of the rival party without attempting to control its own. In an effort to quell the disorders, twelve governors, including four military governors, were replaced during March.
2. Reliable military officers reported that the government is greatly disturbed over the theft of military rifles throughout the country, especially over the large quantities of dynamite stolen from official and unofficial warehouses. Officers in charge of military units were placed on war-time status during the manifestations held in Bogota. These officers further advised that various military mayors with troops at their command will be appointed for those municipalities in the Department of Cundinamarca where political disturbances are expected. According to these sources, the government also planned to maintain a military air patrol of the highways and railroads leading into Bogota.

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