

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 17

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

EW 84

COUNTRY Chile/Peru
SUBJECT Tacna - Arica Incidents

DATE DISTR 14 NOV 49

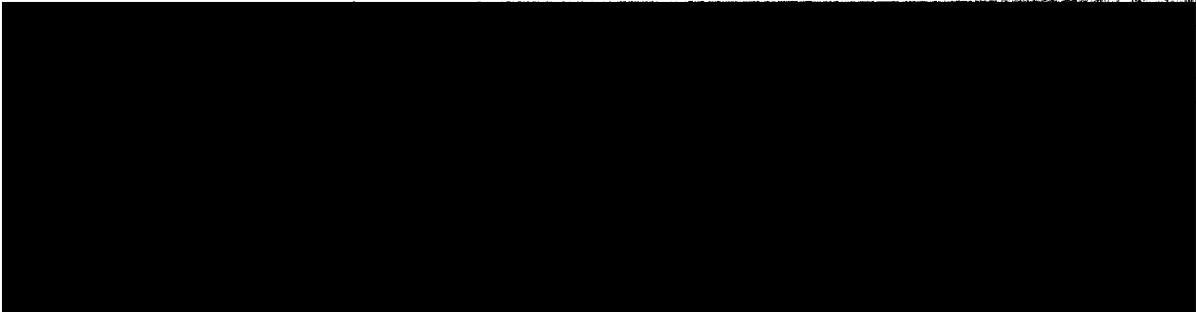
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. Relations between the towns of Tacna, Peru, and Arica, Chile, on the border between the two countries have been tense on several occasions recently. A recent series of disputes reached a climax when the Peruvian guests at a banquet in Arica in celebration of the Chilean national holiday walked out, allegedly in accordance with a pre-arranged plan.
2. The difficulties had begun on 28 August 1949, the anniversary of the cession of Tacna by Chile to Peru, when anti-Chilean demonstrations took place in Tacna. Subsequently, the Chilean authorities protested these demonstrations, the nature of which was not specified, to the Peruvian government.
3. The banquet to celebrate the Chilean national holiday was given on 18 September, 1949 by the leading citizens of Arica, Chile in the Club de la Union. Invitations were extended to the Peruvian Consuls in Arica, as well as to many of the Peruvians residing in the city. During the banquet, the song of the Rancagua Regiment was sung and the Peruvians withdrew, claiming that the singing of this song was an insult to them.
4. Reportedly, this withdrawal from the banquet was part of a plan by which the Peruvians, provided with an incident on which to base a counter-charge, hoped to undermine the validity of the Chilean protest against the anti-Chilean demonstrations.
5. Although the Santiago newspapers of 7 October 1949 announced that Minister of National Defense Guillermo Barrios Tirado's trip to Arica was for the purpose of witnessing the maneuvers of the military school students, it is believed that his real purpose was to investigate the Tacna-Arica disturbances.

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Comment: It is noted that tension has often existed between Tacna and Arica, although, in general, these cities are mutually dependent. Many Peruvians live in Arica and many others cross the frontier daily to work in the Arica port. On the other hand, much of Arica's food supplies comes from Tacna.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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