

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay, Dr. Jose Isaac Arriola, is to be replaced by General Isidro Martini, commander of the Argentine military base of Campo de Mayo. Martini will be named officially as soon as he returns from vacationing at Mar del Plata. The Perons are politically unsure of Arriola and feel that he has failed completely in his diplomatic mission to Paraguay.
2. According to unofficial gossip in Paraguayan circles in Buenos Aires Dr. Arriola is being removed for the following reasons:
 - a. He was not very successful last year in neutralizing Brazilian influence in Paraguay.
 - b. Persons working within the Argentine Embassy in Asuncion have been reporting adversely on Arriola to the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs since about August 1950.
 - c. Arriola, who reportedly is not a supporter of Peron, invites to official Embassy functions many anti-Peron Argentines; he seeks to justify his actions by claiming that the Embassy doors are open to all Argentines regardless of their political convictions.
 - d. Recent investigations carried out by the Oficina de Control del Estado (OCE) reveal that Arriola has engaged in some "shady deals."*
 - e. In a recent secret session of the Argentine Senate, Senator Diego Molinari, one of Peron's supporters, asked that Arriola be replaced. On the Senate floor Molinari read charges based on the OCE report and those emanating from private sources.
3. General Isidro Martini is an intimate of President and Mrs. Peron. He is considered by many political observers to be a shrewd and intelligent opportunist, and completely subservient to the Perons. He owes his present

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position to his friendship with General Franklin Lucero, Minister of War, and to his connections with Peron's Army clique. He also has good connections with official Peruvian and Paraguayan circles. He is said to be very friendly with Florentin Pena, Paraguayan Minister of Agriculture, and with General Arturo Bertolico, Chief of the Argentine Federal Police. He is said to be not very friendly with General Sosa Molina, Argentine Minister of National Defense. Martini is said to be an excellent administrator but just average as a soldier. While he admires the industrial might of the United States, it is believed that he secretly loves the militarism of the Hitler and Mussolini brand. Martini has held no previous political position in Argentina.

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4. Claudio Mejia, Argentine Inspector of Embassies, has been recalled by President Peron at the urging of Dr. Jeronimo Remorino, Argentine Ambassador to the United States, and of Remorino's friend, Oscar Nicolini, Minister of Communications. Remorino is presently in Argentina convalescing and investigating certain undisclosed matters. It is reported that Remorino desired the recall of Mejia because he learned that Mejia was planning to go to Washington in his absence. Mejia denied that he had such an intention.
5. There is a rumor at the Casa Rosada that Ambassador Remorino will replace Dr. Ramon Cereijo as Minister of Hacienda.**
6. Manuel Bernardes Jr. has been in Asuncion since 26 or 27 December 1950,*** probably on a mission for Eva Peron. On 17 January Bernardes stated privately that the Paraguayan Government had ordered him out of the country and that he would leave within three or four days.
7. Bernardes praised highly the work in Paraguay of Captain Julio Miqueo, recently recalled head of the Argentine Naval Mission in Paraguay.***

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. An informant with contacts close to the Argentine Foreign Ministry has confirmed the statement that OCE has reported on Arriola. The informant added that whether any action will be taken is purely conjectural.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ paragraph 4 for other evidence concerning a change of post for Remorino.

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, which describes the unsuccessful Paraguayan revolt led by Bernardes in 1943.

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*** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. It is curious that Bernardes would know Miqueo, unless they had become acquainted in Buenos Aires, and it is rather generally known in the diplomatic colony in Asuncion that relations have never been good between Ambassador and Sra. Arriola and Captain and Sra. Miqueo.

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