



Director of
Central
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-
ORCON

National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

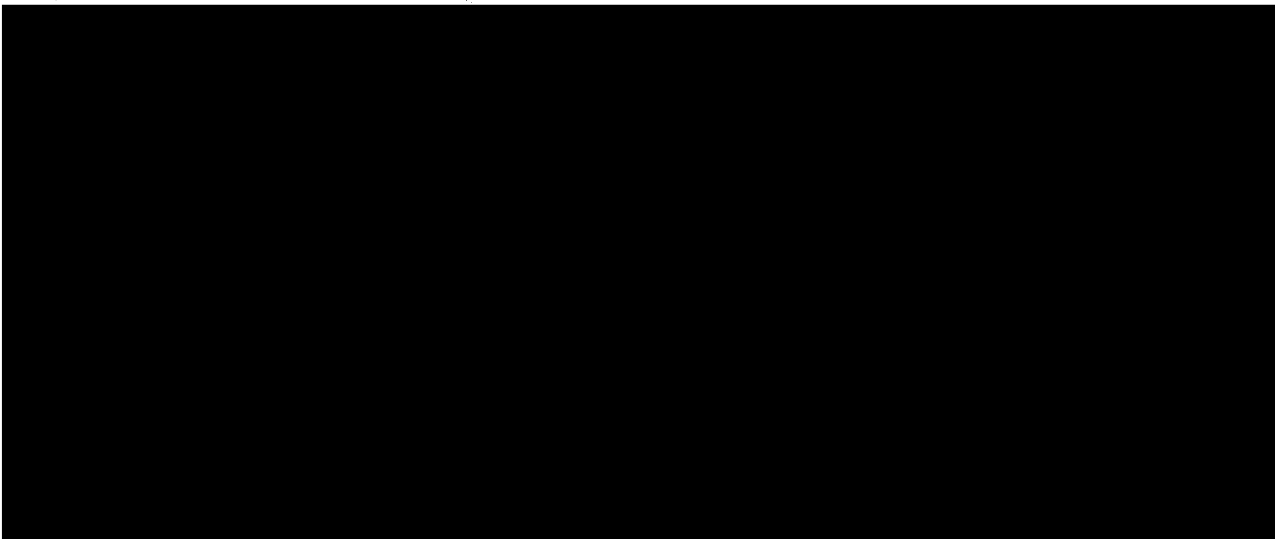
28 February 1960

~~Top Secret~~

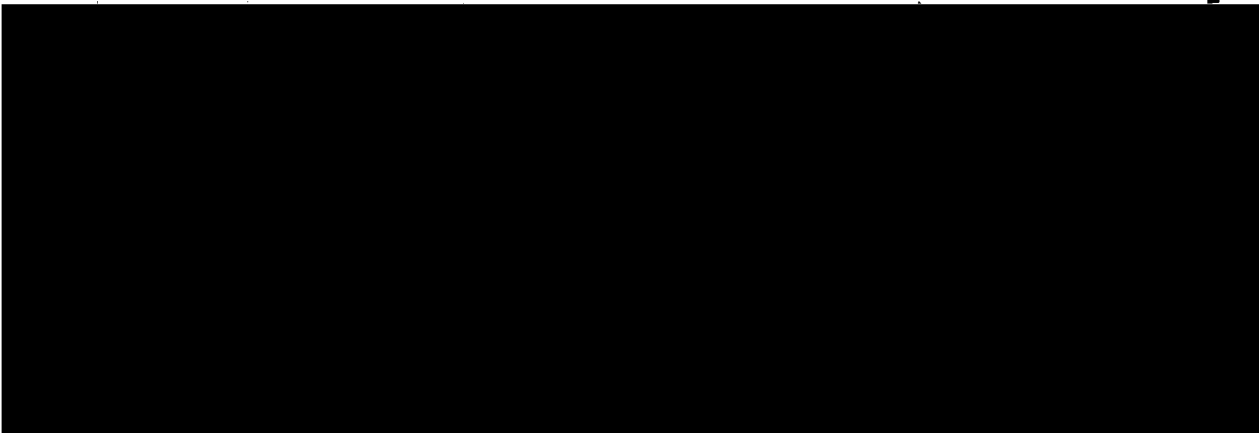
~~Top Secret~~

~~NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-ORCON~~

(b)(1)
(S)



Colombia: *Occupation of Embassy*. 4



~~Top Secret~~



COLOMBIA: Occupation of Embassy

The terrorists occupying the Dominican Embassy in Bogota and holding some 80 hostages probably belong to the leftist Colombian 19th of April Movement (M-19), the country's most active urban guerrilla group. [REDACTED]

US Ambassador Asencio, one of the hostages, is reported unhurt. The National Police have cordoned off the area, and Colombian President Turbay has told [REDACTED] that he will avoid provoking the terrorists, who have threatened to blow up the Dominican Embassy. The government, plagued with an endemic guerrilla problem, has not yielded to terrorist demands in the past and is unlikely to reach a quick compromise. [REDACTED]

The group's objectives are not yet clear, but the occupation coincides with the trial of 219 M-19 members accused of subversive activities. The terrorists probably will demand that these be released as well as all persons they consider political prisoners. They may also seek to embarrass the government on the eve of midterm elections on 9 March, and to provoke the military to react with force. [REDACTED]