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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In addition to making arrangements for economic relations between Argentina and Germany, the following two general problems affecting Latin America were discussed during the confidential conversations held by President PERON and West German Economic Minister ERHARD:
  - a. Germany's role as a new economic consolidating factor in Latin America. (Germany should plan to gradually take over the role actually played now by the U. S.).
  - b. The position Germany would take to a Latin-American economic union.
2. Minister ERHARD took a positive attitude to these concretely formulated questions presented by PERON. He replied that it would be much simpler and advantageous for Germany and, as a matter of fact, for the whole world, if it were possible to deal with a single Latin-American economic area. (~~Wirtschaftsraum~~) PERON asked ERHARD to make these views known to Brazilian political and economic personalities. PERON quite unexpectedly accompanied ERHARD to the airport in order to remind him once again of this matter before his departure from Argentina.
3. German Ambassador Dr. TERDENCE had also tried to influence ERHARD in this respect. The majority of Mission Chiefs and Commercial Attaches in Latin America are of the opinion that it would be far more advantageous for Germany if Argentina efforts for the creation of a Latin-American Economic Union (~~Lateinamerikanischer Grossraum~~) were successful. This view had already taken form at the conference of German Mission Chiefs in Latin America, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1953 under the chairmanship of Walter HALSTERN. It was Ambassador TERDENCE, however, who introduced the precepts adopted by the conference. The idea of a Latin American trip by Minister ERHARD was one of the important results of the conference.

German

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4. Minister ERMIND was very much astonished and impressed that even the politicians and commercial experts of those South American republics which are friendly to the U. S., for example, Peru, had complained to him about the negligent, unstable, and discriminatory economic policy of the U. S. toward Latin America, and now had asked that Germany give them economic and technical support. ERMIND made this confidential remark in the presence of officials of the German Embassy in Buenos Aires immediately after his arrival in the Argentine capital.

*Buenos Aires*

1. Cf. Cs-36566.

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