

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/LIMDIS

September 15, 1970

*M/P*

MEMORANDUM FOR

Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Acting Chairman, Under Secretaries  
Committee

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Bolivia and Latin America

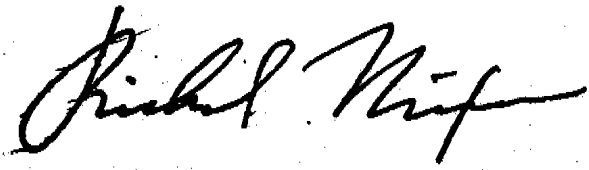
I have reviewed the August 22 memorandum from the Under Secretaries Committee regarding Bolivian insurgency. I note that that memorandum indicates gaps in our information which make it difficult to assess the guerrilla capability in Bolivia. I have also noted that intelligence reports received subsequent to the August 22 memorandum indicate increasing evidence of international participation with the Bolivian guerrillas, including the possible formation of a continent-wide revolutionary group to organize and coordinate revolutionary activity (CIB of 5 Sept. 70).

The question of subversion and international coordination of such activities in the hemisphere is a matter of considerable concern, and I want to be sure that we know as much about it as we can and that we carefully analyze and assess that information. This item should be given priority in our intelligence-collection effort. I also ask that high priority be given to the study of international links among Latin American insurgent groups which the August 22 memorandum indicated is being prepared by the Under Secretaries Committee. I would like to receive a summary of that study's findings as soon as possible.

NSC review completed

MORI/CDF  
C03322380

State Dept. review completed



OSD review(s) completed

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ACTION

September 7, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Bolivia and Latin America

After evidence of renewed guerrilla activity in Bolivia we asked the Under Secretaries Committee to assess the situation and see what we knew about it and what there was to be done (see memo at Tab II). The resulting study (Tab C to President's Memo) states that the guerrillas (ELN) are apparently survivors of the Che Guevara group; that there is some evidence, however, of spread to the cities, and connection with students and an urban apparatus; and that some help has been received from the Tupamaros in Uruguay. The study concluded that things seemed controllable and we were doing all we could.

The striking thing that comes out of the review, however, is that we just do not know very much about the ELN. The study states that we have insufficient information--especially about the urban apparatus--to assess the ELN's capability.

Subsequent intelligence reports indicate increasing evidence of international participation with the Bolivian guerrillas. Even more disturbing is evidence that the various insurgent groups are organizing throughout Latin America, and indication of a disturbing sophistication. See the CIB report appended at Tab B to the memo to the President.

The potential serious consequences of these things--if they are true--are evident. We should give some immediate priority to intelligence collection efforts to confirm this information and to learn as much as we can about the situation. Without that we are in the dark in trying to determine whether our interests are threatened or what we should do.

I attach at Tab I a memo to the President explaining the foregoing, appending the Under Secretaries Committee's study, and forwarding a directive to the Committee and Helms asking for priority on this kind of intelligence gathering and on a study on the matter which Alex Johnson indicates in his August 22 memo is underway by the Committee.

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I think such a directive is desirable because there is a lethargy and leasureliness about all this in the bureaucracy that I do not think we should risk. To give urgency to learning what is going on, I have drafted the directive for the President's signature.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Attachments:

Tab I - Memo to the President

Tab II - Directive to Under Secretaries Committee 7/24/70

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger (5)

SUBJECT: Internal Security in Latin America-- Bolivian  
Insurgency

There has been an outbreak of guerrilla activity in Bolivia apparently by survivors of the 1967 Che Cuevaara band. Since their activity indicated some strength and coordinated effort, I asked for a study and analysis of the situation to be sure we knew what was happening and to determine whether the situation was serious.

The Under Secretaries Committee prepared a review of available information. This memo (at Tab C) concludes that the Bolivian guerrilla group (the ELN) is small and is apparently limited in capability. At the same time the study indicates there are gaps in our information, especially regarding the ELN's urban apparatus and international connections, which make it impossible to assess its real capability. The striking thing that comes through from the study, in fact, is that we just do now know very much about the guerrillas.

Intelligence reports received subsequent to this memo--see summary from Central Intelligence Bulletin of September 5 (Tab B)--indicate increasing evidence of international participation with the Bolivian guerrillas. These reports point to collaboration and coordination among Latin American subversive groups; possible concentration on assisting Bolivian insurgents; and coordination of "revolutionary" activity in the rest of Latin America.

The potential consequences of this kind of activity are sufficiently serious that we should make a special effort to confirm the accuracy of these reports, and to analyze and assess the information. As of now we are just in the dark to a considerable degree.

At Tab A is a directive to the Under Secretaries Committee and CIA Director Helms which asks that priority be given in our intelligence collection activity to this matter, and that priority also be given to

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completing the study of international links among Latin American subversive groups which the Acting Chairman of the Under Secretaries Committee stated in his August 22 memorandum was under preparation. I have prepared this directive for your signature to impress upon the bureaucracy the importance and priority you attach to this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the directive at Tab A.

Attachments:

Tab A - Directive

Tab B - CIB Summary

Tab C - Under Secretaries Committee Memo

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HAK:VPVaky:jrr 9-7-70

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1970


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MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING CHAIRMAN, UNDER SECRETARIES  
COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Bolivia

The President has expressed concern over the reports of renewed guerrilla activity in Bolivia. He would like the Under Secretaries Committee to give him a report, reflecting inter-agency views, (a) summarizing what we know of the size, nature and scope of the guerrilla threat and assessing its potential; (b) assessing the Bolivian capacity to contain it; (c) summarizing what internal security assistance we may be extending to Bolivia now; and (d) conclusions as to whether any additional or special internal security assistance is called for.

Please submit the report by August 15, 1970.



Henry A. Kissinger

CC: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Administrator, Agency for International  
Development  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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