

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Paraguay	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	(b)(3)
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BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: [REDACTED] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

- As a result of the recent political crisis in Paraguay, President Federico CHAVES, Jose Antonio MORENO Gonzalez, Foreign Minister, and Ezequiel GONZALEZ Alsina, Minister of Education, are now under detention at the Colegio Militar. CHAVES has submitted his resignation, which probably will be accepted. The governing board of the Colorado Party was planning to meet [REDACTED] to study the situation. Firing has ceased, and approximately 24 were killed to date. (b)(1)
(b)(3)
- If CHAVES' resignation is accepted, strong candidates for the Paraguayan presidency are Tomas ROMERO Pereira, former Minister of the Interior, and Ramon MENDEZ Paiva, present Minister of the Interior.
- Factions favoring Epifanio MENDEZ Fleitas, former president of the Bank of Paraguay and Police Chief, had part in the recent events. A military plane left Asuncion for San Pedro to take MENDEZ Fleitas to Asuncion.
- [REDACTED] the present situation is not the result of any organized plan or conspiracy, but the revolt developed spontaneously as a result of orders from Nestor FERREIRA, Cavalry Commander, for the arrest on 4 May of Major Virgilio CANDIA and other cavalry officers. Following these arrests, CANDIA supporters started fighting at Cavalry Headquarters, while in Asuncion Army Battalion 40 took over police headquarters, injuring several police officials and killing Roberto PETIT, Police Chief. (b)(1)
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[REDACTED] (b)(3)


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(b)(3)

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5. General Alfredo STROESSNER, Chief of the Paraguayan Armed Forces, reportedly broke with FERREIRA over the above-mentioned arrests, with the result that FERREIRA is now under arrest.¹ STROESSNER controls the city of Asuncion, the police, and all the armed forces, with the possible exception of the cavalry.

1.  Comment. It is rumored that the cavalry may go to Asuncion to attempt the release of FERREIRA.

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