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August ¹⁷~~16~~, 1968

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From: W. W. Rostow

For the President

Info: George Christian

Subject; ~~Latin America~~

*sent Rostow
via wire
CAP 82043*

Herewith a report, prepared under the direction of Covey Oliver, which brings us up-to-date on a number of key situations that are developing in Latin America.

~~(Send attached text)~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By Dcd NARS, Date 2-25-86

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 93-86

By YW, NARA, Date 6-2-94

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~~WRAP-UP OF KEY SITUATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA~~

~~This memorandum provides brief descriptions of several key situations developing in Latin America:~~

1. Fishermen's Protective Act Causes Adverse Reaction in Peru and Ecuador

a. There has been angry official and public reaction in Peru and Ecuador to the Fishermen's Protective Act. An incorrect AP story played in both countries resulted in banner headlines that aid would be suspended, rather than reduced, if another U.S. tuna boat is seized. The Ecuadorean Chamber of Deputies angrily denounced the United States and directed the GOE to enforce scrupulously the 200-mile territorial sea claim. Ecuador's Foreign Minister publicly corrected the news story but condemned the bill as "an instrument of pressure." On August 8 the Ecuadoreans seized four U.S. tuna boats about 25 miles off-shore and fined them a total of \$202,000. No Peruvian seizures have taken place in recent months; Peru is aware that the U.S. would have to demand the return of an American destroyer now on loan if a U.S. tuna boat is seized.

b. We have pressed Ecuador, Peru and Chile to agree to a fisheries conference date. Ecuador wished to defer a decision until President-elect Velasco takes office August 31. The Peruvians show little interest. The Chileans are ready whenever Peru and Ecuador agree to a date. The emotional reactions in the latter two countries to the Pelly Amendment may have temporarily hindered our effort to bring them to the conference table. On the other hand, it should dramatize to both Ecuador and Peru the advantages of reaching an agreement and avoiding prolonged and fruitless problems which, because of the highly emotional public response on all sides, can only spill over into our general bilateral relationships.

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2. Student Unrest

Student disorders of considerable ferocity have occurred in several Latin American countries during the past few months. Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay in particular have been the scenes of violent police-student clashes in which deaths and injuries have resulted in heightened political tensions.

3. Brazil

Since April there have been continuing student demonstrations throughout Brazil caused by dissatisfaction with the educational system and the authoritarian character of the government. It appears likely that serious public disorders will re-occur in the nation's major cities in the months to come. The government has recently banned unauthorized demonstrations by the students. A series of wildcat strikes in key Brazilian industries has further heightened the tension. Labor is generally unhappy with the government's wage policies and has managed to gain the sympathy of an important part of the Brazilian Catholic Church in the struggle for better wages and living conditions. The situation is consequently quite volatile and widespread violence could erupt over the next few months with little or no warning. At this point, however, we do not believe that even this eventuality would seriously threaten the tenure of the Costa e Silva administration, which continues to be backed by a united military establishment and supported by state law enforcement agencies.

4. Mexico

The demonstration in Mexico City on August 13 by 50-80,000 students was peaceful. Radical elements, however, are trying to widen the scope of the protests that began July 26 to include dissatisfaction with labor and housing conditions. The students' continuing success in maintaining the momentum of their demonstrations presents a difficult problem to the Mexican Government, but we

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expect every effort will be made to settle the crisis well in advance of the Olympic Games, October 12-26. There is no indication the student problem will affect President Diaz Ordaz' September plans.

5. Uruguay

The student demonstrations in Uruguay which began in March are now occurring with unprecedented frequency and violence. The police raid on the National University August 9 in search for clues of terrorist activities sparked clashes which resulted in one death. Since the dead student belonged to the communist youth organization, both the students and the communists now have a "martyr" which they may exploit to enlarge their demonstrations in the days ahead. The large Moscow-line Communist Party has avoided a confrontation with the GOU, although militant fringe groups and labor are urging that it take a tougher line. Uruguayan Ambassador Yriat, just returned from consultations in Montevideo, told Assistant Secretary Oliver that the GOU believes the student unrest may increase and conveyed President Pacheco's request for anti-riot equipment. We believe the GOU faces a difficult period of social agitation, perhaps until Parliament adjourns in December, but are confident the President will remain firm and that he can handle the situation constitutionally. We have asked Embassy Montevideo for a fresh appraisal of the security situation to be discussed at an IRG/ARA meeting August 17.

6. Bolivia

The unsteady political atmosphere in Bolivia, following the publication in Cuba of Che Guevara's diary, may be again threatened by the announcement August 15 of Antonio Arguedas, the purveyor of the diary, that he plans to return to La Paz August 17 to tell the truth and await justice. His announcement makes vague charges against

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CIA, naming two "agents", Nicholas Leondiris and a Cuban, Gabriel Garcia. President Barrientos had just strengthened his position by removing his principal military opponent from his post while retaining the support of the Commander of the Armed Forces. Whether Barrientos will also be able to defuse the volatile situation that might be created by the return and arrest of Arguedas will depend not only on his calm determination but also on a measure of restraint by opposition politicians. Both Barrientos and Army Commander Ovando have shown a determination to pursue constitutional government, but the outlook is uncertain.

7. Dominican Republic

There is no crisis looming in the coming months in the Dominican Republic, although an extremist element has threatened to disrupt the August 16 changeover of Santo Domingo's municipal government. Disturbingly, President Balaguer, instead of consolidating his position after his May election success, has exerted less leadership than before and has fallen into a defensive posture in the face of his opposition. His relatively listless performance has resulted in an accumulation of annoying problems, and if he does not reassert firm direction, his government will be increasingly vulnerable to attack.

8. Panama

Arnulfo Arias, winner of the May presidential elections, will take office October 1. All indications are that the transfer of power will take place smoothly and peacefully. Arias successfully overcame efforts of his opponents to have his credentials as President-elect invalidated. There is still potential for friction between Arias and other politically powerful elements. Arias is trying to gain by whatever means possible a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. Also, he has said he intends to remove the National Guard Commandant Vallarino and this could provoke an early confrontation with the Guard. At present, however, it seems that the contest over these issues will not reach crisis proportions. Arias

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hopes to confer with Ambassador Anderson on canal negotiations in New York prior to assuming office but has indicated he does not expect formal talks to resume before early 1969.

9. Peru-IPC Agreement Embodied in "Act of Talara"

The International Petroleum Company turned over its La Brea y Parinas oilfield properties to the GOP on August 13 in return for a quit-claim against all back debts, the right to purchase up to 80 per cent of the crude production of the field for six years at an agreed price, permission to expand its Talara refinery and import needed additional crude, and the right to store and distribute petroleum products in Peru. A new exploration concession was not included but IPC will continue to seek such a concession. While minor difficulties of implementation are to be expected, the Act of Talara formally marks the end of a prolonged and acute dispute that has seriously affected our bilateral relations with Peru.

10. Venezuela-Guyana Border Dispute

A flurry of diplomatic activity followed the Venezuelan decree of July 9 claiming an area of the high seas off the portion of western Guyana which is in dispute between the two nations. The decree implied that Venezuela would immediately exercise sovereignty over the waters in question, perhaps by instituting naval patrols. Venezuela has not attempted to enforce its decree but has refused to give us assurance it would not patrol the area in the event of future Guyanese "intransigence." Since Guyana is hardly disposed to sign away any of its territory, the possibility remains of new Venezuelan efforts to pressure her neighbor. Should any serious incident occur, we expect that Guyana would take its case to the OAS and/or the United Nations.

11. Pope to Meet with Latin American Bishops

Pope Paul VI will arrive in Colombia August 22 to attend a Eucharistic Conference and to inaugurate the second meeting of the Latin American Bishops Conference. This first visit of a Pope to Latin America comes at a time of change and stress there within the Catholic Church. The Pope can be expected

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to push the Church's conservatives to support social change while seeking to place limits on those clergy who are urging radical social change. In public, Latin American leaders have generally praised the Pope's recent encyclical affirming the ban on artificial birth control, although privately many have expressed reservations concerning the document and its timing. Some believe that the encyclical and other conservative statements on doctrine by the Pope are aimed at returning the Church to greater discipline. The Pope's major task will be to set new directions for his Church without creating greater divisions within it.

(As you know, we are providing helicopter support to the Pontiff).

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

1. Schwartz
2. Ret.

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August 16, 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Wrap-Up of Key Situations in
Latin America

Mr. Louis Schwartz, NSC Staff Officer,
requested the enclosed memorandum giving a wrap-up
of key situations in Latin America by a telephone
call to Assistant Secretary Oliver's office on
August 15.

Benjamin H. Read
Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:

Memorandum entitled: "Wrap-Up of Key Situations
in Latin America"

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DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
NOT NAT'L SECURITY
INFORMATION, E.O. 12958,
SEC. 1.1(e)

BY DCH ON 2-25-86

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 93-86

By , NARA, Date 6-2-94

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VZCZCEEA202
OO WTE10 WTE15
DE WTE 3252

Received Washington CommCenter:
7:53 AM, EDT, Saturday, 17 Aug 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommCenter :
8:25 AM, CDT, Saturday, 17 Aug 68

FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN
CITE CAP82043

Relayed to Austin CommCenter :
8:26 AM, CDT, Saturday, 17 Aug 68

Tom J. Cullen
George Christian
no state

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AUGUST 17, 1968

HEREWITH A REPORT, PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF COVEY OLIVER, WHICH BRINGS US UP-TO-DATE ON A NUMBER OF KEY SITUATIONS THAT ARE DEVELOPING IN LATIN AMERICA.

1. FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT CAUSES ADVERSE REACTION IN PERU AND ECUADOR

- A. THERE HAS BEEN ANGRY OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTION IN PERU AND ECUADOR TO THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT. AN INCORRECT AP STORY PLAYED IN BOTH COUNTRIES RESULTED IN BANNER HEADLINES THAT AID WOULD BE SUSPENDED, RATHER THAN REDUCED, IF ANOTHER U.S. TUNA BOAT IS SEIZED. THE ECUADOREAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ANGRILY DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES AND DIRECTED THE GOE TO ENFORCE SCRUPULOUSLY THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM. ECUADOR'S FOREIGN MINISTER PUBLICLY CORRECTED THE NEWS STORY BUT CONDEMNED THE BILL AS "AN INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE." ON AUGUST 8 THE ECUADOREANS SEIZED FOUR U.S. TUNA BOATS ABOUT 25 MILES OFF-SHORE AND FINED THEM A TOTAL OF \$202,000. NO PERUVIAN SEIZURES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT MONTHS; PERU IS AWARE THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO DEMAND THE RETURN OF AN AMERICAN DESTROYER NOW ON LOAN IF A U.S. TUNA BOAT IS SEIZED.

- B. WE HAVE PRESSED ECUADOR, PERU AND CHILE TO AGREE TO A FISHERIES CONFERENCE DATE. ECUADOR WISHED TO DEFER A DECISION UNTIL PRESIDENT-ELECT VELASCO TAKES OFFICE AUGUST 31. THE PERUVIANS SHOW LITTLE INTEREST. THE CHILEANS ARE READY WHENEVER PERU AND ECUADOR AGREE TO A DATE. THE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS IN THE LATTER TWO COUNTRIES TO THE PELLY AMENDMENT MAY HAVE TEMPORARILY HINDERED OUR EFFORT TO BRING THEM TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SHOULD DRAMATIZE TO BOTH ECUADOR AND PERU THE ADVANTAGES OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT AND AVOIDING PROLONGED AND FRUITLESS PROBLEMS WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL PUBLIC RESPONSE ON ALL SIDES, CAN ONLY SPILL OVER INTO OUR GENERAL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS.

2. STUDENT UNREST

STUDENT DISORDERS OF CONSIDERABLE FEROCITY HAVE OCCURRED IN SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. BRAZIL, MEXICO AND URUGUAY IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN THE SCENES OF VIOLENT POLICE-STUDENT CLASHES IN WHICH DEATHS AND INJURIES HAVE RESULTED IN HEIGHTENED POLITICAL TENSIONS.

3. BRAZIL

SINCE APRIL THERE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT BRAZIL CAUSED BY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE AUTHORITARIAN CHARACTER OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT SERIOUS PUBLIC DISORDERS WILL RE-OCCUR IN THE NATION'S MAJOR CITIES IN THE MONTHS TO COME. THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY BANNED UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE STUDENTS. A SERIES OF WILDCAT STRIKES IN KEY BRAZILIAN INDUSTRIES HAS FURTHER HEIGHTENED THE TENSION. LABOR IS GENERALLY UNHAPPY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S WAGE POLICIES AND HAS MANAGED TO GAIN THE SYMPATHY OF AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE BRAZILIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STRUGGLE FOR BETTER WAGES AND LIVING CONDITIONS. THE SITUATION IS CONSEQUENTLY QUITE VOLATILE AND WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE COULD ERUPT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH LITTLE OR NO WARNING. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVEN THIS EVENTUALITY WOULD SERIOUSLY THREATEN THE TENURE OF THE COSTA E SILVA ADMINISTRATION, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE BACKED BY A UNITED MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORTED BY STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

4. MEXICO

THE DEMONSTRATION IN MEXICO CITY ON AUGUST 13 BY 50-80,000 STUDENT WAS PEACEFUL. RADICAL ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, ARE TRYING TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE PROTESTS THAT BEGAN JULY 26 TO INCLUDE DISSATISFACTION WITH LABOR AND HOUSING CONDITIONS. THE STUDENT'S CONTINUING SUCCESS IN MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS PRESENTS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, BUT WE EXPECT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SETTLE THE CRISIS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, OCTOBER 12-26. THERE IS NO INDICATION THE STUDENT PROBLEM WILL AFFECT PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ'S SEPTEMBER PLANS.

5. URUGUAY

THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN URUGUAY WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH ARE NOW OCCURRING WITH UNPRECEDENTED FREQUENCY AND VIOLENCE. THE POLICE RAID ON THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AUGUST 9 IN SEARCH FOR CLUES OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SPARKED CLASHES WHICH RESULTED IN ONE DEATH. SINCE THE DEAD STUDENT BELONGED TO THE COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION, BOTH THE STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNISTS NOW HAVE A "MARTYR" WHICH THEY MAY EXPLOIT TO ENLARGE THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE DAYS AHEAD. THE LARGE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS AVOIDED A CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOU, ALTHOUGH MILITANT FRINGE GROUPS AND LABOR ARE URGING THAT IT TAKE A TOUGHER LINE. URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR YRIAT, JUST RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS IN MONTEVIDEO, TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY OLIVER THAT THE GOU BELIEVES THE STUDENT UNREST MAY INCREASE AND CONVEYED PRESIDENT PACHECO'S REQUEST

FOR ANTI-RIOT EQUIPMENT. WE BELIEVE THE GOU FACES A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF SOCIAL AGITATION, PERHAPS UNTIL PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS IN DECEMBER, BUT ARE CONFIDENT THE PRESIDENT WILL REMAIN FIRM AND THAT HE CAN HANDLE THE SITUATION CONSTITUTIONALLY. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO FOR A FRESH APPRAISAL OF THE SECURITY SITUATION TO BE DISCUSSED AT AN IRG/ARA MEETING AUGUST 17.

6. BOLIVIA

THE UNSTEADY POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN BOLIVIA, FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION IN CUBA OF CHE GUEVARA'S DIARY, MAY BE AGAIN THREATENED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 15 OF ANTONIO ARGUEDAS, THE PURVEYOR OF THE DIARY, THAT HE PLANS TO RETURN TO LA PAZ AUGUST 17 TO TELL THE TRUTH AND AWAIT JUSTICE. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT MAKES VAGUE CHARGES AGAINST CIA, NAMING TWO "AGENTS", NICHOLAS LEONDIRIS AND A CUBAN, GABRIEL GARCIA. PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS HAD JUST STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION BY REMOVING HIS PRINCIPAL MILITARY OPPONENT FROM HIS POST WHILE RETAINING THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES. WHETHER BARRIENTOS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO DEFUSE THE VOLATILE SITUATION THAT MIGHT BE CREATED BY THE RETURN AND ARREST OF ARGUEDAS WILL DEPEND NOT ONLY ON HIS CALM DETERMINATION BUT ALSO ON A MEASURE OF RESTRAINT BY OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. BOTH BARRIENTOS AND ARMY COMMANDER OVANDO HAVE SHOWN A DETERMINATION TO PURSUE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, BUT THE OUTLOOK IS UNCERTAIN.

7. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THERE IS NO CRISIS LOOMING IN THE COMING MONTHS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ALTHOUGH AN EXTREMIST ELEMENT HAS THREATENED TO DISRUPT THE AUGUST 16 CHANGEOVER OF SANTO DOMINGO'S MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. DISTURBINGLY, PRESIDENT BALAGUER, INSTEAD OF CONSOLIDATING HIS POSITION AFTER HIS MAY ELECTION SUCCESS, HAS EXERTED LESS LEADERSHIP THAN BEFORE AND HAS FALLEN INTO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE IN THE FACE OF HIS OPPOSITION. HIS RELATIVELY LISTLESS PERFORMANCE HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATION OF ANNOYING PROBLEMS, AND IF HE DOES NOT REASSERT FIRM DIRECTION, HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO ATTACK.

8. PANAMA

ARNULFO ARIAS, WINNER OF THE MAY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, WILL TAKE OFFICE OCTOBER 1. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE TRANSFER OF POWER WILL TAKE PLACE SMOOTHLY AND PEACEFULLY. ARIAS SUCCESSFULLY OVERCAME EFFORTS OF HIS OPPONENTS TO HAVE HIS CREDENTIALS AS PRESIDENT-ELECT INVALIDATED. THERE IS STILL POTENTIAL FOR FRICTION BETWEEN ARIAS AND OTHER POLITICALLY POWERFUL ELEMENTS. ARIAS IS TRYING TO GAIN BY WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ALSO, HE HAS SAID HE INTENDS TO REMOVE THE NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDANT VALLARINO AND THIS COULD PROVOKE AN EARLY CONFRONTATION WITH THE GUARD. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT THE CONTEST OVER THESE ISSUES WILL NOT REACH CRISIS PROPORTIONS. ARIAS HOPES TO CONFER WITH AMBASSADOR ANDERSON ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO ASSUMING OFFICE BUT HAS INDICATED HE DOES NOT EXPECT FORMAL TALKS TO RESUME BEFORE EARLY 1969.

9. PERU-IPC AGREEMENT EMBODIED IN "ACT OF TALARA"

THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY TURNED OVER ITS LA BREA Y PARINAS OILFIELD PROPERTIES TO THE GOP ON AUGUST 13 IN RETURN FOR A QUIT-CLAIM AGAINST ALL BACK DEBTS, THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE UP TO 80 PER CENT OF THE CRUDE PRODUCTION OF THE FIELD FOR SIX YEARS AT AN AGREED PRICE, PERMISSION TO EXPAND ITS TALARA REFINERY AND IMPORT NEEDED ADDITIONAL CRUDE, AND THE RIGHT TO STORE AND DISTRIBUTE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN PERU. A NEW EXPLORATION CONCESSION WAS NOT INCLUDED BUT IPC WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK SUCH A CONCESSION. WHILE MINOR DIFFICULTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION ARE TO BE EXPECTED, THE ACT OF TALARA FORMALLY MARKS THE END OF A PROLONGED AND ACUTE DISPUTE THAT HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PERU.

10. VENEZUELA-GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE

A FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY FOLLOWED THE VENEZUELAN DECREE OF JULY 9 CLAIMING AN AREA OF THE HIGH SEAS OFF THE PORTION OF WESTERN GUYANA WHICH IS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THE DECREE IMPLIED THAT VENEZUELA WOULD IMMEDIATELY EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WATERS IN QUESTION, PERHAPS BY INSTITUTING NAVAL PATROLS. VENEZUELA HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO ENFORCE ITS DECREE BUT HAS REFUSED TO GIVE US ASSURANCE IT WOULD NOT PATROL THE AREA IN THE EVENT OF FUTURE GUYANESE "INTRANSIGENCE." SINCE GUYANA IS HARDLY DISPOSED TO SIGN AWAY ANY OF ITS TERRITORY, THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS OF NEW VENEZUELAN EFFORTS TO PRESSURE HER NEIGHBOR. SHOULD ANY SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCUR, WE EXPECT THAT GUYANA WOULD TAKE ITS CASE TO THE OAS AND/OR THE UNITED NATIONS.

11. POPE TO MEET WITH LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS

POPE PAUL VI WILL ARRIVE IN COLOMBIA AUGUST 22 TO ATTEND A EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE AND TO INAUGURATE THE SECOND MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE. THIS FIRST VISIT OF A POPE TO LATIN AMERICA COMES AT A TIME OF CHANGE AND STRESS THERE WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE POPE CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUSH THE CHURCH'S CONSERVATIVES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL CHANGE WHILE SEEKING TO PLACE LIMITS ON THOSE CLERGY WHO ARE URGING RADICAL SOCIAL CHANGE. IN PUBLIC, LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS HAVE GENERALLY PRAISED THE POPE'S RECENT ENCYCLICAL AFFIRMING THE BAN ON ARTIFICIAL BIRTH CONTROL, ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY MANY HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE DOCUMENT AND ITS TIMING. SOME BELIEVE THAT THE ENCYCLICAL AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE STATEMENTS ON DOCTRINE BY THE POPE ARE AIMED AT RETURNING THE CHURCH TO GREATER DISCIPLINE. THE POPE'S MAJOR TASK WILL BE TO SET NEW DIRECTIONS FOR HIS CHURCH WITHOUT CREATING GREATER DIVISIONS WITHIN IT.

(AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PROVIDING HELICOPTER SUPPORT TO THE PONTIFF).

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DTG: 171153Z AUG 1968