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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

IN 64285

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DIST 10 MAY 1967

COUNTRY BOLIVIA/CUBA/CONGO

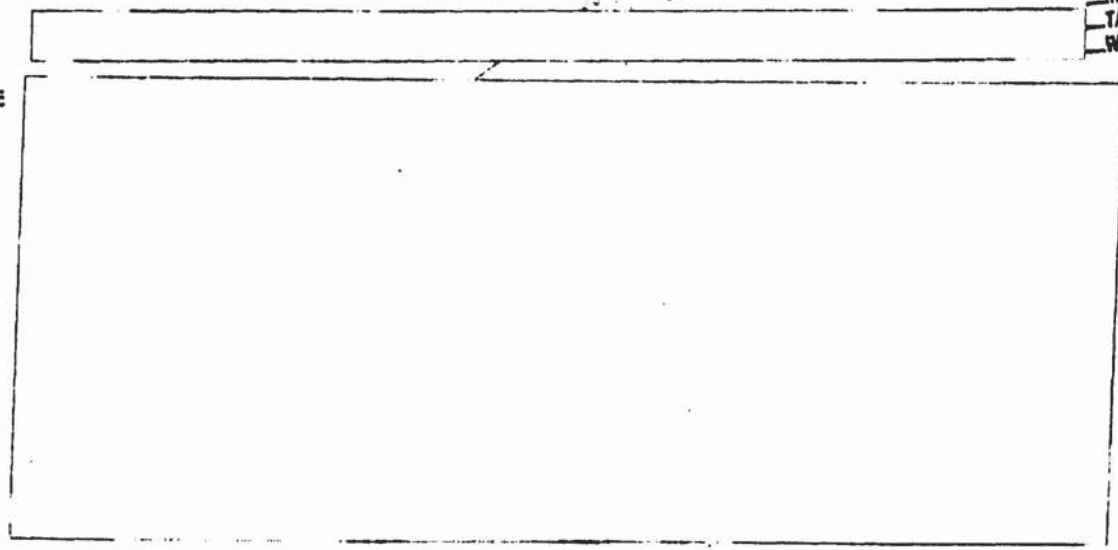
DO: JANUARY - APRIL 1967

SUBJECT THE PRESENCE OF ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA WITH THE BOLIVIAN GUERRILLAS AS REPORTED BY JULES REGIS DEBRAY AND CIRO ROBERTO BUSTOS

- ~~BATOR~~
- ~~BOWDLER~~
- ~~BUDGET~~
- ~~DAVIS~~
- ~~GINSBURGH~~
- ~~HAMILTON~~
- ~~JESSUP~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
- ~~JORDEN~~
- ~~KEENE~~
- ~~KOMER~~
- ~~MOYERS~~
- ~~TAYLOR~~
- ~~WRIGHT~~

ACQ

SOURCE



1. COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING IS THE FIRST REPORT OF PERSONS WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN AND TALKED WITH "CHE" GUEVARA

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5

By id NLJ 09-214
NARA, Date 1-10-11

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SINCE HE DISAPPEARED IN MARCH 1965.)

2. THE FAMED ARGENTINE-BORN CUBAN GUERRILLA LEADER ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA WAS PRESENT WITH THE MAIN GROUP OF BOLIVIAN GUERRILLAS IN SOUTHEAST BOLIVIA FROM LATE MARCH UNTIL AT LEAST 20 APRIL 1967. HE WAS SEEN IN THE CAMP BY JULES REGIS DEBRAY AND CIRO ROBERTO BUSTOS DURING THIS PERIOD. HE PERSONALLY MET WITH DEBRAY THREE TIMES AND WITH BUSTOS ONCE IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND TO GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS TO CARRY TO EUROPE AND TO ARGENTINA. "CHE" GUEVARA TOLD BUSTOS DURING THEIR CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD ARRIVED IN BOLIVIA DURING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1966 IN ORDER TO BEGIN A GUERRILLA MOVEMENT THAT WOULD SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF LATIN AMERICA.

3. "CHE" GUEVARA ARRIVED AT THE MAIN GUERRILLA CAMP, HEADED BY GUIDO PEREDO LEIGUE, SHORTLY AFTER 20 MARCH 1967, WHEN PEREDO HAD RETURNED FROM A RECONNOITERING MISSION IN THE AREA TO THE NORTH OF THE NACAHAZU CANYON. GUEVARA WAS STILL WITH THE GUERRILLAS WHEN DEBRAY AND BUSTOS LEFT THE GUERRILLA

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[REDACTED]

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GROUP ON 20 APRIL 1967, "URBANO" AND "POMBO", BOTH CUBAN MULATTOS, WERE GUEVARA'S BODYGUARDS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PHOTOGRAPH FOUND BY NEWSMEN IN THE NACAHUAZU GUERRILLA CAMP OF A MAN WHO SUPERFICIALLY RESEMBLED "CHE" GUEVARA IS A PHOTO OF "URBANO", GUEVARA'S BODYGUARD.)

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: JORGE VASQUEZ MACHICADO VIANA, A GUERRILLA CAPTURED ON 29 APRIL 1967, DURING AN INTERROGATION [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AT A DIFFERENT DATE, AT FIRST CLAIMED THAT "CHE" GUEVARA WAS STILL WITH THE GUERRILLA GROUP OF GUIDO PEREDO, BUT LATER CHANGED HIS STORY TO SAY THAT GUEVARA HAD LEFT FOR ARGENTINA IN FEBRUARY AFTER HAVING BEEN WITH THE GUERRILLAS BEFORE THAT DATE. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF VASQUEZ ACTUALLY SAW GUEVARA, OR ONLY WAS TOLD OF HIS PRESENCE. GUERRILLAS CAPTURED PREVIOUSLY (PASTOR BARRERA QUINTANTA, SALUSTO CHOQUE CHOQUE AND VICENTE ROCABADO TERRAZAS) ALL REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT GUEVARA WAS IN BOLIVIA AND WITH THE GUERRILLAS, BUT THEY CLAIMED THEY NEVER SAW HIM IN PERSON. AS THE CAPTURED GUERRILLAS HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CAMP ONLY DURING

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20 FEBRUARY - 17 MARCH 1967, AND "CHE" WAS TO HAVE LEFT THE CAMP BEFORE FEBRUARY 1967 AND RETURNED AFTER 20 MARCH, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE SEEN PERSONALLY. THE STORIES OF ALL SIX PERSONS WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE GUERRILLA CAMP EACH INDEPENDENTLY TELL ESSENTIALLY THE SAME STORY.)

5. ACCORDING TO DEBRAY, GUEVARA TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD SPENT ONE YEAR IN THE CONGO FOLLOWING DISAPPEARANCE FROM PUBLIC SIGHT, BUT THAT HIS REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL THERE.

6. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, AIR, CINCSO (ALSO SENT [REDACTED])

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LBJL, NSF: Country File: Latin America, Box 8, Folder, "Bolivia vol 4, 1/66 – 12/68 [3 of 3]"



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