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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# Intelligence Memorandum

*The Security Situation in Uruguay*

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24 March 1967  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
24 March 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Security Situation in Uruguay  
(Situation Report Number 18)

1. Uruguayan officials expect to have all security units ready to begin assigned activities by 6 April. Various country delegations have requested Uruguayan authorities to provide them with protection, but since the delegates will be scattered throughout a wide area around Punta del Este, this would pose a serious protection problem. Uruguayan officials say, with the exception of the US officials, the delegations are not cooperating with the Uruguayans.

2. Tight security over the electrical lines feeding into Punta del Este will be established, but the lines from Montevideo and the lines and power stations in Punta del Este are difficult to guard and the Uruguayan authorities consider them vulnerable to sabotage. The Uruguayans believe, however, that the immediate conference area can be protected and that there are enough generators available to supply emergency electricity to the conference site in the event of sabotage or other difficulties. A separate emergency generator is being supplied for President Johnson's quarters. Punta del Este's water supply would be cut off in the event of a power failure and the water company can assure emergency supplies for only eight hours. The government has yet to assign enough personnel for security protection of the pumps and reservoirs. The Uruguayans are planning to have all those assigned to this duty security cleared. However, clearances in Uruguay are notoriously inadequate and even the people appointed to oversee those protecting power and water facilities may be unreliable.

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3. The municipal workers of Maldonado are planning a strike on 31 March for three months' back pay. Should it occur, Uruguayan officials fear it could generate a general strike by other Maldonado workers. Youth sections of five Montevideo-based unions have now agreed to begin a march from the capital to Punta del Este on 6 April. In addition, demonstrations are planned in front of the country's congress building in Montevideo.

4. On 21 March the police shot at some Communist youth organization members who were putting up anti-conference posters in the capital. The youths maintain that they were unarmed, but the police say the Communists fired first. At any rate, this type of police action is exactly the kind of incident the party has been hoping to provoke for propaganda purposes; should a similar incident in the future provide the party with a martyr, the Communists' opportunities for making trouble could be sharply increased.

6. Leonel Brizola, an exiled Brazilian extremist leader, has eluded his rather casual Uruguayan surveillance. Brizola could be planning some violence against the Brazilian President when he visits Punta del Este, although it seems more likely that he would attempt to provoke the Brazilian Government by staging some incident involving terrorists or guerrillas in Brazil.

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