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LATIN AMERICA CHRONOLOGY  
1975

- 21 May ~~(S/NFD)~~ Soviet Colonel General of Aviation Stephan Grechko visited Cuba, a possible indication of impending improvements in Havana's defense system. Location of new SA-3 GOA missile sites under construction could mean the Cubans are planning medium/low altitude air defense coverage by the SA-3, to complement the medium/high altitude coverage of their SA-2 Guideline.
- ~~(S/NFD)~~ Bolivia purchased \$5.5 million worth of military aircraft from Israel. The Bolivian purchases involved six Arava-201 short-take-off-and-landing transports. This aircraft has been sold by Israel to Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- 25 May (U) The Peruvian Government expropriated the holdings of the Gulf Oil Corporation in Peru, accusing the company of "offending public morality and Latin American dignity" with respect to reported bribes it paid to foreign government officials.
- 26 May (U) Delegations from 17 Latin American countries met in San Jose, Costa Rica, to discuss creation of a multinational Caribbean merchant fleet, to be owned exclusively by participating governments. Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, Cuba, Colombia, and Venezuela have signed a pact agreeing to contribute equally to an initial \$30 million fund. The pact creating the shipping enterprise empowered it to commission and operate all types of merchant ships, to construct or acquire shipyards and related facilities, and to buy or charter ships and appropriate material.
- 4 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ Romanian President Ceausescu began a week-long visit to Brazil and Mexico, where he was expected to seek increased economic ties and support for observer status at the nonaligned ministerial meeting in Lima, Peru, this August.
- 5 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic gave cabinet-level posts to General Perez y Perez and Rear Admiral Jimenez. Balaguer's cabinet shifts were in line with his policy of balancing military contenders for influence against each other.

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- ~~(S/NFD)~~ A Chilean Army intelligence officer who had been investigating arms smuggling was found dead in Talca Province, 120 miles south of Santiago. Fourteen persons linked to the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) were arrested and implicated in the officer's death. This was the first MIR-connected incident since the guerrilla group was believed to have been effectively neutralized by the Chilean Government in late 1974.
- 7 June ~~(C/NFD)~~ Several hundred Colombian students occupied a Bogota hospital in support of the National University's attempt to gain administrative control of the facility. The police responded by forcefully ejecting and arresting most of the protesters, including the Dean of Medicine. This incident set off student demonstrations in other areas of the country.
- 12 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ Colombian President Lopez declared a state of siege in three areas of the country, including the cities of Barranquilla, Cali, and Medellin. The executive order which gave security forces search, detention, and imprisonment powers will be used to control and quell public disorders. Striking cement workers joined students, and some of the protests became violent.
- 16 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ Venezuela signed a \$514 million deal with Italy for six frigates, the largest arms agreement ever made by a Latin American country.
- 26 June (U) President Lopez of Colombia announced that the partial state of siege imposed on 12 June was being extended to the entire nation. This action was in response to student demonstrations in Bogota.
- ~~(S/NFD)~~ President Velasco of Peru removed his Navy Minister, Vice-Admiral Faura, because of his incompatibility with other naval officers. Faura was replaced by Vice-Admiral Galvez, who is a supporter of the ailing President's likely successor, General Morales Bermudez.
- 27 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ A Soviet freighter unloaded at least 12 ATS-59 medium-artillery, tracked prime movers and 12 130mm field guns at Callao, Peru. Additional Peruvian acquisitions of Soviet equipment include 150 to 200 T-55 tanks; six 122mm howitzers (Model D-30); three 122mm truck-mounted,

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40-round launchers (Model BM-21); and four TMM truck-mounted, scissor bridges.

- 28 June ~~(S/NFD)~~ A four-day, nationwide, general strike began in Argentina, with thousands of workers demonstrating against economic conditions. Argentina's annual inflation rate exceeds 100 percent. Price controls have led to a decline in production, and the peso has been devalued by 50 percent in relation to the dollar.
- 30 June (U) Between 500 and 700 Panamanian students conducted a protest march on the US Embassy in Panama City. They were protesting a US House of Representatives vote against appropriating additional funds for canal treaty negotiations.
- ~~(S/NFD)~~ Prime Minister Williams of Trinidad and Tobago began a visit to the USSR with authorization by his cabinet to negotiate and sign bilateral merchant, shipping, and transport agreements with the Soviets.
- 7 July ~~(C/NFD)~~ A two-day general strike began in Argentina. Labor leaders demanded a 100 percent wage increase and resignation of the Social Welfare Minister and Presidential Advisor, Jose Lopez Rega; he resigned and immediately departed for Spain.
- 18 July ~~(S/NFD)~~ Argentina purchased six British frigates.
- ~~(S/NFD)~~ Panamanian Minister of Agricultural Development Gerardo Gonzalez was elected Vice-President, replacing Arturo Sucre who resigned on the 15th, ostensibly for health reasons.
- 22 July ~~(S/NFD)~~ A state of emergency suspending constitutional guarantees for 30 days was imposed by the Peruvian Government. This action was taken after a 48-hour, general strike led to serious disorders. The disturbances underscored government inability to satisfy labor with an acceptable economic policy.
- 25 July ~~(S/NFD)~~ The Cuban National Airline inaugurated a regularly scheduled weekly flight between Havana and Panama City.

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