

#111

at 2 Daniels, Lane (W.D.)

In reply
refer to 1-2102/75

March 2, 1975

Honorable Sam Hart
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hart:

Mr. Nease has forwarded the copy of the letter entitled
A NEW VIETNAM IN LATIN AMERICA which you sent to him on
February 27th.

I am certain that our Latin American Directorate will find it
very interesting and informative and we do appreciate your
thoughtfulness in providing it to the Department.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS J. SMITH
Special Assistant

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Office of Latin American

3 March 1975

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February 24, 1975

Mr. William S. Coleman
Farmingdale Manor
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 23 Oct 2018 Authority: EO 13526

Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____

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Reason: _____

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Over the weekend I had an opportunity to study the information which you sent me with respect to developments in Latin America.

This is indeed a serious matter, and I am making the information available not only to Senators Byrd and Scott, but to other appropriate officials.

Again, thank you for writing, and you have my kind personal regards and every good wish.

Very sincerely,

Dan Daniel

DD:va

cc: Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
Honorable William L. Scott
✓ Honorable John L. Maury

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E 2102/25-

WILLIAM S. COLEMAN
INVESTMENTS
FARMINGDALE MANOR
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24112

February 16, 1975

The Hon Dan Daniel
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Daniel:

Kindly find enclosed letter from President Eduardo Marin and Reginaldo Bradenburg, which is self-explanatory. I hope you will pass this letter on to the proper officials for immediate action.

The enclosed letter will confirm my plea with Undersecretary of the Army Gordon Gray and other high government officials in Washington, to have a show down with Russia when they cut off our transportation in Germany and settle our differences once and for all, and not have another Chamberlain - Munich mess or wait twenty years when Russia gets as strong or stronger than the U.S. of America and then have a show down. From the enclosed letter it looks as if that is exactly what we have done.

I guess we the taxpayers and voters can say this is the penalty we have to pay for not electing statesmen but re-electing politicians. Most of these same people are in Washington now who were there when Russia cut off our transportation.

I hope you see that Senators Scott and Harry F. Byrd, Jr. receive a copy of President Eduardo Marin's letter.

As i stated to you I enjoy your radio programs and if you have to pay for these out of your private funds, I'll be glad to make a contribution.

Thank you.

Yours very sincerely,


William S. Coleman

WSC:h

**Confraternidad Argentina por la
Democracia y la Seguridad de las Américas**

Diagonal Roque Sáenz Peña 628 - Entrepiso
Capital Federal, Argentina

A NEW VIETNAM IN LATIN AMERICA?

Sometime during the last few days of 1974, the EFE International News Agency published a report from Hamburg, in which the STERN weekly magazine was quoted as saying that the volume of Soviet weaponry purchased by Peru equalled the arms facilities granted by the Soviet Union to North Vietnam. The German weekly added -and its source of information was theoretically a highly confidential report-that the Peruvians intended to use their newly acquired weapons against their Chilean neighbours.

These news, brought up to our attention recently, confirm beyond the shadow of a doubt our fears of an impending American conflagration in vulnerable areas, the most threatened being at this moment the dividing line between Peru and Chile, while the greatest threat is posed by a possible Peruvian invasion of Chilean territory, in which heavy weaponry would be employed. Massive Peruvian war equipment consists of 500 tanks, 350 of which are Soviet-made T-55, and of considerable numbers SA-3, SA-6, and SA-7 missiles, also Russian-made, referred to by the specialized publication "Defence & Foreign Affairs" in its November 14th, 1974 issue, which dedicates a four-page article to the highly unusual strengthening of the Peruvian war force, which, in addition, includes anti-tank artillery and 1,650 military vehicles recently purchased from Mercedes-Benz.

✓
The presence of Soviet and Cuban trainers and technical personnel stationed at this very moment on the Peruvian-Chilean border is no longer a secret, and neither is the fact that they are taking advantage of the Chilean Government's efforts to rebuild, socially and economically, a country shattered by the late Salvador Allende's regime.

AMERICAN FREEDOM AND UNITY MUST BE INVIOABLE

From Bolivar all the way down to Monroe, American nations have conceived their historic role around unity and collective integrity aimed at the defence of the freedom and democratic ideals which inspired their individual struggles towards independence.

Among other essential principles, American anphictyony demands from the nations of the New World brotherly concord and mutual respect, and this implies a common front against foreign aggression and ideological colonialism of totalitarian systems, irreconcilable with human dignity.

A century and a half of historic struggles and vicissitudes, not devoid of tragic confrontations, have forged into Americans the conviction that they will never again tolerate the presence of satellite governments or any imperialism on American soil and have led them to stigmatize the Castro dictatorship as a traumatic wound.

The intentions voiced out by our one-time fellow citizen and distantly remembered "Che" Guevara, namely, to re-edit one hundred fold in American soil the unbearable inferno of Vietnam, must be repudiated at any cost, and this can only be achieved through complete harmony and moral unity among all American nations, who must forget heroically at this time their reciprocal historic grievances. We urge them to overcome chronic grudges, such as the one which have risen between Argentine and United States patriots and all other conflicts existing among sister nations in the American Continent, since this is the basic requirement for common survival at this moment of super-emergency, the Middle East, Indochina and many other aching spots throughout the world.

The defeat of communism in Chile has been circumstantial and effect may be short-lived if the country is left on its own, wide open to an apparent Peruvian invasion, which would actually amount to a combined Soviet-Cuban offensive. The piercing explorations conducted in Latin America by the communists have been aimed at providing them with a foothold in the South Pacific, and the Kremlin is still persevering in its strategy.

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If, at this moment, the Governments of the Continent don't make a common effort to dissuade Peruvians of their belligerent intentions, continuously spurred from abroad, if they omit to include among their peremptory arguments the sternest warnings and assurances that Soviet military presence in South America will not be tolerated with impunity, and neither will the consequent explosion of the Peruvian-Chilean magazine, all our countries will become candidates to extermination, while Argentina and its neighbours will be placed in the same unenviable position as Thailand, whose fate is conditioned to the eventual collapse of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia; the Thailandese are well aware of the fact that they will be the next in turn to be rammed by war pan demonium. We do not want this to happen in America under any pretext.

AND WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING ABOUT THESE OBVIOUS SYMPTOMS OF AGGRESSION?

For the time being, and for the sake of distension, vast sectors of the nation are joining in the intrigue campaign launched by communism, thus neutralizing and rendering valueless the scant military aid granted to a country who freed itself, and by itself, of international communism. This policy is, not only suicidal, it is the complicity required by the Soviets to achieve a successful penetration of this Continent.

If Washington is to remain faithful to its history, its people and to the rest of America, it has no other alternative but to adopt immediate steps to preserve peace. Otherwise, the price of peace will be extremely high. Many American homes will be darkened by mourning and young generations of Americans will bleed themselves to death sterily. War economy will be imposed on its people, and the impossible will be demanded from the North American tax payer at a time when both the U.S. economy and the financial systems of most of the nations of the Free World are undergoing one of the worst crises in world history. This abundant contribution of blood and resources from the United States seems unavoidable, unless preventive measures are adopted from now onwards to halt the installation of a gigantic Soviet military base in the very heart of South America; the combined Peruvian-Cuban-Soviet advance may very well spread to the rest of the Continent.

PERU MUST BE DISSUADED

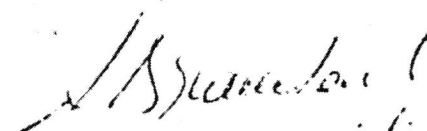
The catastrophe can be prevented if right now and without further hesitation, the Chanceries of all the nations of the Continent, including the U.S. Department of State, take a firm and unequivocal stand, first conciliatory and increasingly sterner, if the Peruvian Government should choose to ignore the

peace summons in order to avoid the imminent war outburst on the Peruvian-Chilean border, craftfully prepared and framed amidst gigantic stock-piling of weapons, which has no explanation other than Peru's sinister intentions towards its neighbour.

In any case, the removal of Soviet tanks and missiles from American soil must be demanded, as once before, efforts were made to obtain the withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Cuban territory.

We Argentines, who seek and yearn for a remedy to cure our internal grievances and for an end to the bloody wave of violence unleashed among our own people, we, who seek to avoid the eventual forceful involvement of the United States and other American nations and the consequent high toll of human lives and resources which the new Peruvian-Chilean Vietnam holocaust is sure to claim, we expect that our own Chacery as well as all the other Governments of the Continent and particularly, the United States Government, shall pronounce themselves firmly through their representatives in the OAS General Assembly, to be held in April, for the preservation of peace, concord and freedom, and, above everything else, for the sovereignty of all American nations. Otherwise, America's fate and security will be jeopardized as never before in its history.

January, 1975


REGINALDO BRANDENBURG

Secretary General


EDUARDO MARIN

President

RECEIVED 22 NOV 1974

Defense & Foreign Affairs Daily

Vol. III, No. 217

Thursday, November 14, 1974

Strategic

The following document was acquired by Copley & Associates from usually reliable Latin American sources. It outlines the expansion in equipment and deployment of the Peruvian armed forces, at a time when tensions have been increasing between Peru and Chile. The possibility of conflict between the two states cannot be ruled out at this stage, despite some strategic maneuvers by Brazil and the two countries directly involved.

SYNOPSIS OF THE INCREASE IN PERUVIAN ARMAMENTS

A - ARMY

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1. Deployment and Capacity

(a) The Sixth Division of motorized infantry, with assignment to Tacna (in the extreme south of Peru) pertains to the Third Military Region. The Sixth Division was transformed to a mechanized status, the significance of which was that it was assigned a tank battalion of approximately 50 units.

(b) Infantry battalions and artillery groups have been moved from the center of the country to the area of Arequipa-Tacna (Tacna is in the extreme south and Arequipa is some 150 air miles to the north). Some old units which had been deployed in the south have been redeployed in the same area.

2. Tanks

(a) At the present moment the Peruvian Army has approximately 340 tanks of North American, French and Soviet origin. As of this date, approximately 200 of the Soviet T-54/55 type have arrived in Peru, of a total estimated to eventually reach 350. This has allowed them to complete their operating units (Divisions) and to organize at least two new tank battalions which will be in the area of Arequipa-Tacna. (Each battalion consists of approximately 50 tanks.)

Once the full complement of Soviet tanks is delivered, the Peruvian Army will have some 500 units. Armament on the vehicles will be changed to 105mm.

(b) The French tanks, AMX-13s, will have their cannon changed, also, to 105mm. At the same time, their performance will be increased by the installation of a more powerful Cummins (diesel) engine.

(c) The US-built Sherman tanks will have their engines replaced by other Cummins diesels.

3. Anti-Tank

The Peruvian Army has, and is acquiring, great quantities of:

- (i) *Cobra* rockets (West German)
- (ii) 88.9mm Spanish rocket-launchers
- (iii) Argentine-built anti-tank cannon

4. Personal Arms

The Army has acquired 50,000 Soviet *Kalashnikov* assault rifles.

PERUVIAN ARMY STATISTICS (Continued)

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5. Missiles

SA-3 (Soviet)
SA-6 (Soviet). At least two batteries
SA-7 (Soviet)
XMG-M-52C (US). Order in process
Gabriel (Israel). Probable

LAUNCH (airborne, surface, sea)

6. Motorized

(a) The Peruvian Army has approximately 200 "Areneros" VW light vehicles for soft-ground work. The vehicle is equipped to carry light armament. The question has been raised whether the vehicle will be armed and/or made in Peru.

(b) The Army has 100 German armored cars of the UR-416 (armored personnel carrier) variety. 222 more of the type will be acquired.

(c) The Army has acquired 1,650 military vehicles from Mercedes Benz in Argentina.

(d) 1,000 German "Unimog" 1.5 to 2 metric ton vehicles are already in service, and the Government has signed an agreement with Mercedes Benz of Germany to install a factory in Peru, with the help of Mercedes Benz in Argentina.

(e) With the US 1975 military credits, the Peruvian Army will acquire 150 APCs from the FMC Corporation. They will be of the M.113 type.

7. Artillery

The Army has acquired at least two groups (24 units) of 155mm self-propelled guns. Part of this number are in the area of Arequipa-Tacna. Negotiations are underway to acquire 24 more of the 155mm self-propelled guns from the US.

8. Military Engineers

The Army has arranged in Japan and possibly other countries for the acquisition of:

- (i) Motorized pontoons which permit river crossings with armored and other motorized vehicles;
- (ii) Tank Bridges, Model 67. This consists of a bridge of 12 meters in length, mounted on a tank chassis.

9. Foreign Instructors

There are more than 200 officers and non-commissioned officers from Cuba and the USSR in Peru at present. The majority are specialists in armor and missiles.

10. New Credits and Investments

(a) Negotiations undertaken by the Inspector-General of the Army in Europe, in war matériel, are as follows:

France	\$12-million (US)
Switzerland	\$16-million
East Germany	\$140-million

(b) The US has granted credits of approximately \$20-million.

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Continued from the preceding two pages

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B. NAVY

1. Modernization

(a) The *Daring*-class destroyers (*Ferré* and *Palacios*) were modernized in the UK to take *Exocet* (French) missiles.

(b) The cruisers *Grau* and *Bolognesi* were recondition, and can now take helicopters.

2. Cruiser Force

The Navy has acquired the cruiser *Almirante Grau* to reinforce the capacity to three units. The others are the *Bolognesi* and *Quilones*.

3. New Acquisitions and Constructions

(a) Missile-carrying *Alpine*-class frigates (Italian).

- two are under construction in Italy;
- two will be built at SIMA-Callao with Italian advice.

(b) Submarines.

- two Type 209 (German). One, the *Islay*, is now in Peru.
- two Guppy type (US), the first to be delivered at the beginning of 1975.
- there is a possibility that Soviet submarines will be acquired.

(c) Torpedo-carrying vessels.

With the help of the Spanish Astilleros Bazan shipyard, the construction at SIMA-Callao (the Peruvian naval shipyard) of six torpedo-carrying small vessels.

(d) *Fletcher*-class vessels. (Destroyers)

Two ex-USN vessels of this type have docked in Callao for cannibalization for spare parts for other vessels of the class already in service with the Peruvian Navy.

4. Naval Aviation

Now acquiring:

- 14 Agusta Bell 212 helicopters from Italy
- 6 HS.3 Sea King helicopters (US)
- 9 Grumman Tracker S-2E aircraft (US)

5. Naval Infantry

Acquisition is planned of an unspecified number of lightly armed "Aranero" type light vehicles of an improved type to that in the Army, with a more powerful engine.

C. AIR-FORCE

1. Acquisition of Aircraft

(a) Aircraft.

- 24 Northrop F-5E fighters (US)
- 24 A-37 fighter-bombers (US)
- 8 *Mirage V* bombers (French)
- 12 to 18 *Canberra* bombers (ex-UK)
- Unknown quantity of MiG-21/23 fighters (unconfirmed)
- 6 Grumman HU-16B anti-submarine aircraft (US)

Continuation of Peruvian Air Force statistics

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(b) Helicopters.

8 Bell UH-212

In 1973 they acquired 24 Bell 206 and 212 types, totalling, with that addition, some 70 units, which have been used for petroleum surveys and "civic action". All the machines are fitted with armament mounts for quick conversion to a battle readiness state.

2. Air Defense

Two large air defense centers have been established, one in Lima, the other in Arequipa. These areas have been equipped with large quantities of detection, control, and anti-aircraft systems, as well as air defense aircraft.

3. Reserves and Promotion

(a) By law of the Republic, civil pilots have been made a part of the Air-Force Reserve. The Air Command assists in Civil pilot training. The same applies to the Maintenance Center of the Peruvian Air Force.

(b) The Government recently acquired 40 Cessna T-41D light aircraft for the civil aero clubs.

4. Agreement with Aeroflot

The agreement with the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, gives Peru the use of Aeroflot personnel and equipment in the case of an internal or external emergency.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Recent national statistics on Peru, indicate that of the 15,370,000 population, there is an armed forces component of 54,000. Of the Estimated 1973 GNP, \$8.2-billion, some \$226-million was allocated for the 1974 defense spending. Following gives an estimation of Peruvian armed forces as at mid-1974:

ARMY	NAVY	AIR-FORCE
Total force: 39,000 men	Total personnel: 8,000	Personnel: 7,000
1 armored brigade ("division")	4 submarines (2 more on order)	Combat aircraft: 90
7 infantry brigades ("divisions")	3 light cruisers	1 light bomber sqn with 5 B.26
1 para-command brigade ("airborne division")	4 destroyers	1 light bomber sqn with 15 Canberra
1 jungle brigade ("division")	3 destroyer escorts	1 "fighter" sqn with 14 Mirage I
Artillery and engineer battalions.	2 submarine chasers	1 fighter sqn with 10 F-86F and 6 Hunter T-52
Equipment includes:	2 coastal minesweepers	1 FGA sqn with 20 T-33A
200-T-55; 60 M-4 med. tanks; 100 AMX-13 light tanks; 106 HWK-11 armored cars; 50 M-3A1 scout cars; 105mm, 122mm, 152mm and 155 mm guns; Bell 47G helicopters	6 fast patrol craft	1 photo-recce sqn with 10 C-60
	3 patrol boats	1 mar. recce sqn with 6 PV-2 Harpoon
	8 gunboats	4 HU-16A mar. patrol aircraft
	7 landing vessels (2 LST, 1 med., 1 utility)	Variety training equipmt and transport equipmt inc. 2 Hunter T-62, 2 Mirage IIIB, 8 T-33, 26 T-37B, etc.
	2 Bell 47G and 2 Alouette III helicop.	
	4 frigates on order	

The "General Survey" was not part of the leaked report on the status of the Peruvian Armed Forces, but was compiled from open sources, the accuracy of which (compared with the full report) is not guaranteed. The increases reported over these four pages indicate a consistent preparation on the part of the Peruvian Government for hostilities. The "Daily" has, over the past year, pointed up the possibility that hostilities might occur in the region, between Peru and Chile, specifically around the time of the anniversary of the