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House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Hearing Transcript
Questions from Mr. Early

INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT -- URUGUAY (U)

GENERAL FISH. The current internal security threat in Uruguay is considered minimal. During 1972-1973, the military and security forces successfully countered a serious threat from the National Liberation Movement, better known as the Tupamaros. This organization carried out a very costly and destructive terrorist/insurgent campaign between 1968 and 1973. At the height of their activity, the Tupamaros had an estimated 3,000 militants and several thousand sympathizers. Now there are an estimated 200 militants in country, and the number of supporters has diminished accordingly. The organization received support in the form of training, funds, and probably weapons from Cuba in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and Cuba is believed to be continuing to provide propaganda and moral encouragement at this time. [Many Tupamaros are in exile in Argentina where they have gained the active support of Argentina's People's Revolutionary Army, both organizations being combined in the Joint Revolutionary Junta.]

The principal threat is the possible resumption of Tupamaro activity. However, due to vigilance of and forceful counterinsurgency actions by security forces, no such resumption is anticipated in the near future.

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