

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Hearing Transcript, December 3, 1975
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Argentina

As Perceived by Argentina:

External threat: Brazil, because of its size, the size of its military forces, its strong industrial base, and its rapid economic development, is viewed as a vague potential threat in the distant future.

Internal threat: Continuing terrorism and guerilla warfare that has plagued the country since 1968, became intensive in 1974-1975, and has tied down a regimental-size force in counterguerilla operations in Tucuman Province since February 1975. The main insurgent operations are the Montoneros (an organization with several thousand hard-core members that is an offshoot of the Peronist movement and has extensive contacts in the parent organization) and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP -- a Marxist-Leninist group with several hard core members, much more active than the Montoneros and with considerable international support).

As Perceived by the United States: Same as Argentina's view.

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Bolivia

As perceived by Bolivia:

External threat: None.

Internal threat: Possible insurgency by sizable labor elements over some future labor problem. Large elements of the miners, urban labor, and campesinos have revolted at various times in recent Bolivian history. There is no guerrilla threat; the National Liberation Army, a Castroist guerrilla group that claims to continue Che Guevara's guerrilla force of 1966-1967 and has made a few raids since that time, has not been active in Bolivia since at least 1972, but has members in exile in Argentina and has the support of the Argentine People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) through common membership in the so-called Revolutionary Coordination Junta.

As perceived by the United States: Same as Bolivia's view.

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Brazil

As perceived by Brazil:

(U) External threat: Argentina, if it were to acquire a major military advantage over Brazil, as by the acquisition of nuclear weapons, would become viewed as a vague potential threat and would become the primary target for contingency plans, as it was until the mid-1950's.

(U) Internal threat: There is considered to be no significant threat of terrorism and guerrilla warfare. Ultra-leftist elements resorted to those measures following the ouster of leftist-tending President Goulart and military assumption of a role in government in 1964, but vigorous and unremitting suppressive campaigns have almost totally eliminated all insurgent organizations, and there has been no important insurgency for several years.

As perceived by the United States

(U) External threat: Negligible probability of attack against Brazil.

~~(S)~~ Internal threat: Same as Brazil's view.

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