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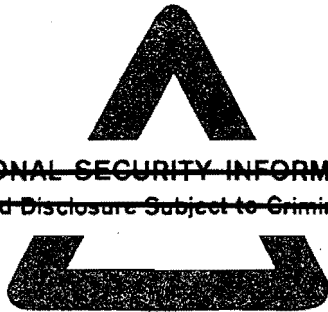
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
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ANNEX

Latin American Students

The anniversary of Che Guevara's arrest and execution this week has produced only faint rumblings among the students of Latin America; there has been no sign of coordinated action throughout the continent. In Mexico, where the student problem is the most serious, the agitators have been lying low since the major violence of a week ago and are now trying to decide on future strategy. Their demands, however, are unchanged--disbanding the riot police, freeing all political prisoners, compensating students hurt in clashes with security forces, and firing the mayor of Mexico City.

In Uruguay, the situation has its own national flavor. The students started rioting to protest against a government raid on the national university. Later they changed their tactics and demonstrated against the government's refusal to lift a state of siege which had been imposed during the summer. They also joined with labor to demand an end to a wage freeze. There were student fatalities as a result of some of these demonstrations, producing student "martyrs" and in turn more rioting as the students protested government "brutality." Disorders have eased somewhat recently, but it is likely that the radical leadership will soon drum up more demonstrations with more violence.

In Brazil, students have repeatedly asked the government to implement badly needed educational reforms. Better teachers, better facilities, and an updated curriculum are high on their list of demands. In response, the Costa e Silva government has conducted numerous studies of the archaic educational system. So far, however, it has failed to make any changes. There will eventually be some action, but this is likely to be too little and too late to satisfy the students.

At this point, we have no evidence that the student riots in the various Latin American countries are interrelated or directed from abroad. It is true, however, that local Communists, Trotskyites, Castroites, and other extremists on the left have been quick--and evidently well prepared--to exploit the student grievances.