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SUBJECT: A Brief Look at "Operation Condor"

1. "Operation Condor" is a cooperative effort by the intelligence/security services of several South American countries to combat terrorism and subversion. The original members included services from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia; Peru and Ecuador recently became members. The Agency's first knowledge of the organization's existence came in March 1976 when

reported that Colonel Manuel CONTRERAS, then chief of the Chilean Directorate of National Intelligence (DINA), had initiated a program of cooperation between the intelligence services of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia called "Plan Condor." Although cooperation between the respective intelligence/security services had existed for some time -- perhaps as early as February 1974--- the cooperative effort was not formalized until late May 1976 when a Condor meeting was held in Santiago, Chile. The basic theme of the meeting was long-range cooperation among the services of the participating countries, but went well beyond information exchange. Condor members were given numerical designations; i.e., "Condor One," "Condor Two," etc.

2. By July 1976 the Agency was receiving reports

that Condor planned to engage in "executive action" outside the territory of member countries against leaders of indigenous terrorist groups residing abroad. The latter included members of the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta (JCR) which comprised the Chilean MIR, Argentine ERP, Uruguayan MLN-Tupamaros, and certain other less important groups.

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