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16 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With [WUSLAB/1] on 10 March 1970

1. Security and Arrangements: This meeting was pre-arranged by phone to take place at [WUSLAB/1's] home in Maryland where he is recuperating from an eye operation. His wife met me at the door and let me go up to the second floor where I met [W/1]. When I left there was a family car in front of the house. By the voice it was probably one of the two sons. I did not see him.

2. [W/1] is wearing [pin-hole] glasses which give him a rather startling look. He was released from the hospital on [8 March] and he will go back and see the surgeon on [18 March]. The total recuperation period is another five weeks, since it has been one week since the time of the operation (2 March 1970).

3. Administration: [W/1] was paid his salary for February. He was unable to sign a receipt because of his vision problems.

4. Production: Just before his operation [W/1] received a letter from [Guillermo Bedregal] which was sent from Caracas. Bedregal had seen Bolivian Planning Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado in Caracas. Ortiz said that the Bolivian government either wanted in effect to work an alliance with Paz without the MNR, or with the MNR without Paz. One idea was for Paz to remain in Lima and to give his blessings on MNR people to join the government. Paz had already rejected the idea of Paz without the MNR. Ortiz told Bedregal that he was anxious to see Juan Lechin Oquendo, who had been in Caracas, but had disappeared. (He is reputed to have gone to Europe.) Bedregal had seen Lechin a month before he talked to Ortiz. At that time Lechin had said that he would have nothing to do with the Bolivian government. He was very vengeful and bitter. Bedregal said that he has become even more radical. Lechin said that he was willing to enter into conversations with Paz.

Extracted for WH/3/3

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5. Bedregal had also discussed with Ortiz the possibility of [W/1] and others from [the^s MNR] joining the Bolivian government in September 1970. Bedregal said that he would send further details on this scheme to [W/1] and that he would expect Ortiz to discuss it with [W/1] personally. Ortiz is expected to attend the CIAP meeting in Washington which is being held in March. [W/1 is supposed to receive the blessings^{1/8} of Paz, General Torres, the civilian members of the cabinet, and even the approval of the conservative military which is apparently alligned behind [a relative of W/1's wife] This is a retired officer. 8

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6. [W/1 had been in contact by phone with^{1/8}] Hector Fernandez in New York. Fernandez has returned from his period of leave in South America.

7. Plans: I expect to recontact [W/1] over the weekend and will probably see him early next week.

F B M

FLOYD B. MCCULLY

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[WUSLAB] OPS									

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