

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. 100-337879-4

Date: October 11, 1945

To: Mr. Frederick B. Lyon
Chief
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation
Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DR. RICARDO A. PAREDES (ROMERO)
ECUADOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

Please refer to communications from this Bureau dated April 20, and May 21, 1945, regarding the captioned individual, a physician of Quito, Ecuador, who has been Secretary General of the Ecuadoran Communist Party.

As of possible further interest, there is enclosed a copy of a memorandum received from a confidential source believed to be reliable, concerning recent activities of Dr. Paredes including his function as representative of the Indians in Ecuador. It will be noted that on August 20, 1945, he directed a letter to the Ecuadoran Minister of Foreign Relations advocating withdrawal of United States troops from Ecuadoran bases.)

This information has been made available to the American Embassy in Quito, Ecuador.

Enclosure

cc Acting Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Department
Washington, D. C.

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August 27, 1945

RE: DR. RICARDO A. PAREDES (ROMERO) -
Ecuador

COMMUNIST PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

In his capacity as Secretary General of Partido Comunista - Ecuador, PAREDES has been calling frequent meetings of the Central Committee. These are usually held once a week, but occasionally as often as two or three times per week depending upon the urgency of matters to be handled.

Source C advised that as evidenced in recent meetings of the Central Committee the subject is vitally interested in the issues of the Duclos-Browder affair and in keeping with his character as an old line Communist leader, the subject supports the viewpoint of DUCLOS. In the first meeting at which this matter was discussed, PEDRO SAAD, who favors a policy of collaboration, opposed PAREDES' support of DUCLOS and stated that he would prepare a written declaration of his views. The SAAD declaration was not forthcoming, but at a meeting of the Central Committee of August 21st, PAREDES presented a tentative resolution outlining the attitude of PCE with respect to the Duclos-Browder issue. The precise details of this resolution are not yet known, but generally PAREDES seems to favor following DUCLOS' recommendations as closely as possible, and yet try to obtain a practical, advantageous political position in Ecuador.

At the same meeting of the Central Committee PAREDES stated that the activities of the local Communist Party among the labor unions of Ecuador, had fallen more and more exclusively upon the shoulders of PEDRO SAAD, and that in the future PAREDES intended to take steps to revitalize the establishment of cells in labor unions and general Marxist education of the workers. PAREDES characterized this work as probably the most important activity of the Communist Party.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Source C advised that on the evening of August 20th PAREDES called a meeting of the Central Committee to consider a message which he had prepared addressed to the new Minister of Foreign Relations, JOSE VICENTE TRUJILLO. This letter concerned the release by the United States of bases on Ecuadoran territory with particular reference to the Galapagos. PAREDES opened the meeting by reading the letter, which was subsequently discussed by the other members

Mr. Chancellor: Your statement to the national press concerning your desire of a prompt ratification of that present, who suggested a few minor changes in wording, but in effect approved unanimously PAREDES' proposals. A delegation consisting of PAREDES and GUSTAVO HECERRA was selected to take the message personally to TRUJILLO. The letter delivered August 21st was released to the press the following day, and was given a considerable amount of attention especially in "El Telegrafo" of Guayaquil, which reproduced the message in its entirety. The Guayaquil papers, as well as those in Quito, carried statements to the effect that the Minister would shortly issue a statement in answer to PAREDES' demands. The following is the complete text of the message:

Quito
August 20, 1945

MR. JOSE VICENTE TRUJILLO
Chancellor of the Republic

Mr. Chancellor:

"In the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party I welcome you upon your return to the country.

"Ever watchful for the vital interests of Ecuador the Communist Party offers you its opinion and formulates a demand that measures adequate to defend those interests be taken.

"The Second World War has ended. Shortly the great democratic powers will sign the peace treaty with Japan. Ecuador, as is true of the rest of the co-belligerent United Nations in the struggle against the totalitarian powers, should also sign the document of peace among peoples by ratifying the Charter of World Organization and Security approved in San Francisco, California. By not doing so our country would remain isolated on the international plane with serious damage to its fundamental interests. If it should be done after delay as was the intention of your predecessor in the Chancellory, not only would Ecuador seem to be unwilling to give the approval which would permit it to join the world organization, but its position would be such that the possibilities of action would be limited.

"Mr. Chancellor: Your statement to the national press concerning your desire of a prompt ratification of that Charter of World Organization and Security, shows that the man in charge of international affairs in Ecuador has a clear vision of world problems and situations. We must zealously defend what remains of our national territory and develop it. Ecuador has contributed to the defeat of the totalitarian powers principally by placing at the service of continental defense the strategic bases for taking economic and political measures against sabotage by Axis Nationals and supplying raw materials at low prices for war purposes and with other measures of minor importance.

"If we are aligned on the side of the countries that have contributed to victory, we cannot allow a diminishing of our territorial heritage. Once the war is over the occupation of any part of our territory by foreign troops, even though these be allies, has no justification. The Good Neighbor policy has established bases of peaceful collaboration between the United States and Latin America, and in fulfillment of this policy it is time for the armed forces of the United States to leave the bases which Ecuador contributed for continental defense.

"The millions of sueres which Ecuador has failed to realize through fishing rights in the Galapagos Archipelago; the paralyzation of the economic and social development of the bases and adjacent zones caused by their having been converted into a theater of war, cannot and should not continue. The Galapagos Archipelago represents for Ecuador immense possibilities in the realm of the development of the natural resources and because of its geographical position. The task of colonizing the Archipelago is pressing and should be continued with enthusiastic cooperation of the entire country. To delay any longer the abandonment of the military bases would affect the sovereignty of Ecuador. The Central Committee of the Communist Party believes that the time has arrived to take steps to effect the withdrawal of the armed forces of the United States from the bases used for defensive purposes during the war which has just ended. The entire democratic world has great admiration for the North American nation, which admiration is shared by the Communist Party of Ecuador and as a result of which we advocate a policy of broad collaboration. This collaboration can only be possible on the basis of complete sovereignty of Ecuador guaranteed by the Atlantic Charter and proclaimed by the United States through the words of its great chief, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

PAREDES continues: "Mr. Chancellor: We wish you all success in your handling of the three international negotiations for Ecuador and hope that in the future those negotiations will assure its sovereignty and will place it among free peoples who struggle for humanity in peace and in constant progress."

"Respectfully yours,

PAREDES ended the letter:

DR. RICARDO A. PAREDES
Secretary General"

"Mr. Minister, as Functional Representative of the
Indians I ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN AFFAIRS

PAREDES continues to use his combined capacities as Functional Representative of the Indians and leader of the Communist Party to good advantage in increasing the popularity of the Communist Party activities among the Indians. Recently there have been clashes between Indian agricultural workers and hacienda owners sided by the Guardia Civil, which resulted in the death and imprisonment of some Indians. Presumably in his capacity as Functional Representative of the Indians PAREDES made a trip to the scenes of the Indian clashes. It should be noted however that Source C reported that PAREDES' trip was financed by collections taken up at Communist Party meetings, and that he was accompanied on the trip by a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, MIGUEL ANDRADE MENENDES. Illustrative of the propaganda use to which PAREDES is able to put his combined positions is an article which appeared in the Communist newspaper "Bloque" dated August 4, 1945, under the headline "The Functional Representative, DR. RICARDO PAREDES, Asks the Minister of Government that the Massacres of Indians Be Stopped." The article takes the form of an open letter from PAREDES to the Minister of Government and in part reads as follows: and which, is intended primarily for Indian consumption, and is written in a vein of "I address you as Functional Representative of the Ecuadorian Indians. In the rural regions of the Sierra which set forth during the past few months there has been unleashed a wave of furious persecution of the Indians. In this space of time public force has effected three massacres of defenseless and peaceful Indians in San Cusiel, Province of Chimborazo; Panyatug, Province of Cotopaxi; and in Shacundo, Province of Bolivar. Treacherous crimes without any justification. All in order to satisfy the landowners Committee is land aid in the exploitation of the Indians. Party. In the August 19th edition of the Communist paper "Bloque", the following article: "In all these cases the victims who did not die were thrown in jail or are being pursued. The criminals are free, making a show of their freedom from punishment and justice, and mockery has been made of the justice of May 28th."

PAREDES continues in the letter to give specific details concerning each of the three clashes in a very lurid and one-sided manner, such as stating in the instance of Panyatug "Armed forces under the command of the Governor of Cotopaxi entered the town and when the Indians emerged to greet the authorities respectfully, one ERNESTO CORDOVES, representative of the multimillionaire, MIGUEL ANGEL ALVAREZ, began the massacre aided by the Guardia Civiles."

PAREDES ended the letter:

"Mr. Minister, as Functional Representative of the Indians I submit to you my most vigorous protest against such crimes against the Indians. I request that the imprisoned individuals be placed at liberty, and that those responsible for the massacres be punished and obliged to recompense the victims for the damage they suffered.

"Mr. Minister, let the persecution of the Indians stop. Let there be justice for those who form the majority of the Ecuadoran population.

"Respectfully,

RICARDO A. PAREDES"

PAREDES is also reported by Source C to be principally responsible for the occasional publication of a small newspaper known as "Nucanchic Allpa" (Quichua: "Our Land"). This paper printed in both Castillian and Quichua, is intended primarily for Indian consumption, and is written in a vein of vigorous agitation of the Indian working class. PAREDES is reported to be the authority of a good percentage of the articles which set forth glowing accounts of efforts and intentions of the Communist Party for the betterment of the Indians. According to an article which appeared in the July 20th edition of Nucanchic Allpa, RICARDO PAREDES is a member of an organism known as "Comite de Defensa Indigena." This Committee is intended primarily for the defense of Indians in legal matters, particularly those associated with the Communist-controlled Ecuadoran Federation of Indians. The article further stated that the Secretary General of the Committee is LUIS ALVARO, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. In the August 19th edition of the Communist paper "Bloque", the following article appeared:

"Thanks to the efforts of the Communist Party which created the Federation of Ecuadoran Indians, the indigenous movement of Ecuador has entered into a new phase of organization and of reasserting the rights of the Indians to enter into civilized life. They are events that signalize the significance in Ecuador. The indigenous movement assumes aspects of incalculable importance. The formation of the Indian cooperative "Tigua" is one of the steps in the redemption of the Ecuadoran Indian."

It should be noted that the establishment of the aforementioned cooperative which was effected by the purchase of three sections of a hacienda, consisting of approximately four thousand square hectares, was carried out principally by PAREDES. The project was financed by credit extended by the Banco de Fomento to the extent of 570,000 sucres. The article in "Bloque" further stated that DR. PAREDES will give a series of lectures "dealing with the transcendental aspect of the indigenous movement." These lectures starting on August 21st will be delivered at Calle Flores #11, the usual meeting place of the Quito Communist Party. The general public is invited to the lectures.

The following description of PAREDES was obtained through Source D:

Name	RICARDO A. PAREDES (ROMERO)
Place of Birth	Riobamba, Chimborazo, Ecuador
Date of Birth	3/19/98
Height	5' 4"
Weight	165 lbs.
Build	Medium heavy
Hair	Dark brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Light
Education	Doctor of Medicine
Marital Status	Married to ZOILA FLOR de PAREDES
Residence	With brother, ANGEL MODESTO PAREDES (ROMERO) at Ascasubi 9, Quito
Occupation	Medical Doctor and Functional Representative of Indians to Constitutional Assembly
Personal Peculiarities	Round face Does not wear hat Combs hair straight back Large head Round shoulders