

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
AMERICAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
APR 11 1944
MR. BERLE

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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Date:

APR 7 1944

In reply, please refer to
File #64-200-12-10

To:

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State

From:

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Communist Activities in Ecuador

As of possible interest to you, there is attached hereto a report covering recent activities among Communists in Ecuador.

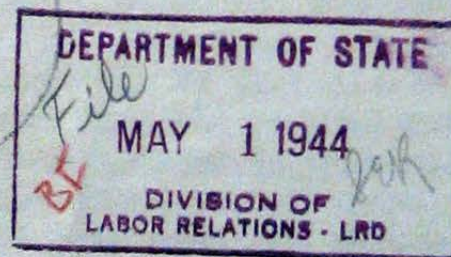
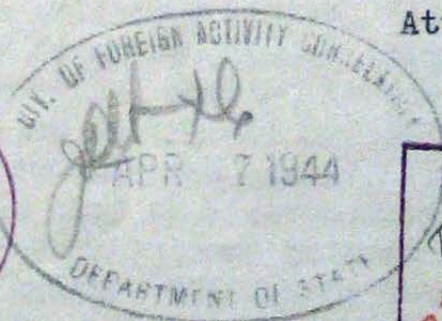
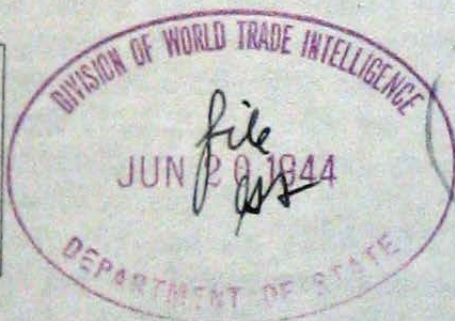
This information has been made available to the American Embassy, the Military Attache and the Naval Attache at Quito, Ecuador.

Enclosure

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

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

Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney



Confidential File
FEB 1 - 1945

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Re: COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN ECUADOR,
Quito, Ecuador.

Source A informed that on December 7, 1943, a commemorative assembly was held by invitation of the Comité Nacional de los Trabajadores del Ecuador at Guayaquil. This assembly was held in the local of the Carpenters' Society on the Second Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A maximum of 150 people were present.

PEDRO SAAD, Communist leader of Guayaquil, was one of the principal speakers. He stated that the policy of the United States with relation to Latin America changed immediately after Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States and introduced his Good Neighbor Policy, which both he and the Democratic Party initiated. However, the case of Puerto Rico is still a grave remembrance of the old policy. Continuing, he said that men like Senator Butler, traitors and Imperialists, are an index of what would happen if the Republican Party came into power in the United States. The union of the "Big Three" was the only thing able to save the World and Latin America. A policy of charity towards South America is not enough, she demands equal treatment, not alms. Both continents need each other and ought to respect each other. The Good Neighbor Policy ought to end the regimes of a totalitarian character and fraud from which South America suffers.

Reliable Source B advised that there was a remarkable decrease in Guayaquil of activities on the part of the political entity, "Alianza Democrática Ecuatoriana", during the first few weeks of December, 1943. According to the statements of the leaders of some of the political parties forming the Alianza, namely PEDRO SAAD, representing the Communist Party, and Dr. ANGEL F. ROJAS, representing the Socialist Party, it is felt that the presidential elections will be governed by arbitrariness, or that some kind of dictatorship will be established before the election can take place. Furthermore, it seems that the radical element has been advised by VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO's headquarters to concentrate its activities on labor organization rather than on the presidential election. LOMBARDO TOLEDANO allegedly expressed the point of view that the future of the workers depends on the internal labor development rather than on temporary local events. It also appears that Dr. JOSE MARIA VELASCO (IBARRA), who is the candidate of the Alianza, is not on very friendly terms with LOMBARDO TOLEDANO. The two are reported to have made personal acquaintance in Chile.

According to PEDRO SAAD, the Confederation of Workers of Latin America has a total membership of approximately five and a half million people at the present time. Of this number, more than one million are in Mexico, one half a million in Cuba, four hundred thousand in Chile, and approximately seventy thousand in Ecuador. He believes that the membership in Ecuador can eventually be raised to one hundred and fifty thousand. He did not furnish corresponding figures for the other Latin American countries but it appeared that the Confederation is also strong in Peru. He implied that the Ecuadorian group is in close contact with their Peruvian comrades. SAAD stated that the workers in Ecuador do not favor the contemplated alliance between Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela as, in his opinion, the alliance is directed against Peru and might result in

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a war, in which the working class would suffer most. He believes that border troubles between Ecuador and Peru can be settled without war once the Confederation has control of the political situation in Latin America. He indicated that some kind of an agreement exists between the local and Peruvian members of the Confederation on the subject of border questions.

The Union Sindical de Trabajadores del Ecuador has received an invitation from the British syndicates to take part in the World Labor Congress to be held in London in June of 1944. The invitation announces that the congress will be of a consulting nature only and that no resolutions will be made. The principal aim of the congress will be to orientate labor headquarters on labor conditions and activities in all the countries of the World. SAAD stated that he would try to send two delegates from Ecuador and would ask the Union de Trabajadores de America Latina headquarters to help finance the trip.

On December 11, 1943, BENO KRISER, Jewish immigrant and writer of Quito, spoke at the Sociedad de Beneficencia Israelita in Guayaquil on the subject of his experiences during a recent trip to the United States. He spoke in a derogatory manner of conditions in the United States, especially regarding a feeling of prejudice against the Jews. At the termination of his speech, a collection was made for Palestine. One of the Jews present suggested that the money be sent to STALIN rather than to Palestine, reasoning that Palestine will never solve the Jewish problem and that the Jews can expect justice only through Communism.

In regard to the Bolivian revolution, PEDRO SAAD stated he had received word from political friends in Bolivia to the effect the recent revolution in that country had been partly the result of Nazi activities and that Bolivia maintains contact with totalitarian circles in Argentina.

Source C stated he had received information from prominent labor leaders in Guayaquil that VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLMADO has instructed all labor organizations in Ecuador not to aid in any way the present regime in Bolivia as it possesses Nazi-Fascist sympathies. PEDRO SAAD also received a statement from the Cuban Communist leader, BLAS ROCA, in which Roca denounced the Bolivian regime as being Nazi-Fascist.

SAAD received, in his capacity as representative of labor organizations in Ecuador, an official report sent by a commission of the Federacion Obrera de Chile, which is summarized as follows: It is the belief of the Chilean Worker delegates that the present Bolivian Government is definitely of Nazi tendencies and essentially follows militaristic lines. For this reason, laborers of this continent should not support, in any way, the present Bolivian Junta until it has cleansed itself.

According to this source, meetings of Communist sympathizers are being held at Olmedo #40 in Quito, Ecuador. At a meeting held at this address on January 11, 1944, PRIMITIVO BARRERO, known Communist leader in Quito, stated as follows: "Whatever may be the political facts in Bolivia at the present time, we must

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"always be alert against the maneuvers of Yankee Imperialism which, under the guise of the Emergency Consultative Committee for Political Defense of the Continent, is exercising pressure against the Latin American nations with grave danger for the sovereignty of their peoples."

Source B informed that on January 14, 1944, there was instituted in Guayaquil the "Comite de Apoyo a la Carta del Atlantica" (Aid Committee to the Atlantic Charter), whose alleged aim is to study applications which the charter can include with regard to Ecuador and to encourage their materialization. The Board of Directors of this new committee is composed of the following persons:

Dr. TEODORO MALDONADO (CAJAO)	Dean of Guayaquil University
Dr. VICENTE TRUJILLO	Well-known Guayaquil lawyer
Dr. FRANCISCO ARIZAGA (LIJUNE)	Local lawyer and President of the "Alianza Democratica Ecuatoriana"
Dr. PIO JARAMILLO ALVARADO	Historian and writer

None of the individuals on the Board of Directors had an active part in forming the committee. The committee is the result of an invitation on the part of the workers' syndicates, especially of PEDRO SAAD and his group. SAAD, and other radicals, are assistant directors. With the four outstanding men at the head of the committee, the nature of this organization and the purpose for which it was formed are likely to be misunderstood. As far as can be ascertained, the radicals plan to interest the Government in favoring the materialization of some of their resolutions adopted at the Workers Congress held in Guayaquil in November of 1943, but by approaching it under the guise of this new committee.

In the latter part of January, 1944, PEDRO SAAD, in speaking of the political unrest in Ecuador and other Latin American countries, stated that a general radical uprising in Latin America may have to be expected by the time the Russian Army arrives at the border of Germany.

On January 29, 1944, the Alianza Democratica Ecuatoriana held a meeting in memory of the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro. Those attending belonged in the majority to radical circles. The principal speaker was PEDRO SAAD, who pointed out that the Ecuadorian-Peruvian border affair has not been settled by the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro. He stated that the treaty was an imposition on Ecuador and that settlement cannot be expected from governments; therefore, the workers must be the ones to take charge of it. He added that the Ecuadorian syndicates have already contacted the syndicates in Peru and there exists good hopes towards reaching an agreement among the workers of the two countries which will be satisfactory to Ecuador.

The Confederation of Workers of Latin America has called for an emergency congress of leaders of the confederation to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on February 25,

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1944. PEDRO SAAD has been designated to represent Ecuador at the Congress. It is rumored that the meeting is due to an alleged revival of Imperialistic reactionary methods and that resolutions will have to be adopted to counteract these activities. On January 28, 1944, VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO sent the following telegram to PEDRO SAAD, which is translated from the Spanish as follows:

"Considering the serious South American situation, where in the new future additional revolutions might take place either before or after the armed aggression which Argentina is preparing against Brazil, which would all result in a grave crisis for Democracies on this American Continent and would practically paralyze cooperation at a decisive moment of the struggle against Fascism, and also considering the call from the workers in Uruguay, and upon consultation in a meeting yesterday with comrades BERNARDO IBANEZ and FIDEL VELASQUEZ, I take the liberty of inviting the members of the central committee, et al, and of all affiliated centers to an emergency assembly to be held in Montevideo on February 15th stop At the assembly we shall also decide on resolutions to be presented to the Workers' International Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia in April, and to Workers' World Conference in London in June of the present year stop Please make all efforts towards assisting at the Montevideo conference on the date indicated above stop I await for your telegraphic reply."

On the same date, LOMBARDO TOLEDANO advised SAAD to be sure to see BERNARDO IBANEZ, who was to pass through Guayaquil on the following Saturday. He also inquired of SAAD as to the amount of money he would need to make the trip to Montevideo. In answer to this wire, SAAD requested \$600.

On February 1, 1944, LOMBARDO TOLEDANO advised SAAD that in order to enable all delegates to arrive on time for the Montevideo assembly the date had been postponed to February 25, 1944.

On February 8, 1944, TOLEDANO instructed SAAD to apply at Panagra for his ticket as he had paid for a round-trip ticket for him.

The above telegrams were furnished by Source D. Information has been obtained from the local newspapers, and through Source B, that PEDRO SAAD has been refused a passport by the Ecuadoran Government for travel to Montevideo. SAAD said that this refusal constitutes a gross violation of democratic rights; that it will cause the congress in Montevideo to publish in all Latin America a protest against the totalitarian and dictatorial arbitrariness of the local government; and that the attitude of the government will be branded in the entire continental press, which will be one more proof of the anti-democratic spirit of the ruling clique in Ecuador. Furthermore, he stated

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that his case will be considered by the Congress as an additional example for the revival of reactionary Imperialism and that it will be of serious consequences to democratic continental cooperation.

On February 7, 1944, there appeared in "El Telegrafo", newspaper of Guayaquil, the following Associated Press report dealing with the Montevideo conference:

"Mexico City, February 6, 1944. The Newspaper 'Excelsior' reports that one of the primary objects of the announced emergency meeting at Montevideo, as called for by the Latin America Workers Federation, is to encourage the establishment of diplomatic relations with the sixteen Soviet Republics which, it must be clear, is part of the Communist plot to enlase Latin America with Russia."

Source B advised Source C that word had been received by the Communists of Guayaquil from Chile to the effect that the political situation in that country is very delicate at the present time. The working class there is suffering severely from the high cost of living and political plots are being prepared in that country which might lead to a revolution in the near future. He did not state the channels through which the above information was received but added that "it is going to be hell in all Latin America and it only depends on the further military progress of the Soviet armies."

Source C advised that he secured the following information from MANUEL RIVAS, a Communist sympathizer tailor who resides between Guayaquil and Vargas Streets in Quito:

RIVAS is a director of the Sindicato Unico de Sastres y Modistas in Quito and returned in January from a month's stay in Guayaquil. RIVAS stated that the Communist and syndicate movement in Guayaquil is gaining strength daily, due principally to the activities of the Communist leader, PEDRO SAAD. During the last three months five new cells, of 150 members each, have been established in the coastal area. It is calculated that membership cards in the Communist Party have been granted during this period to about 150 Communists in the Port of Guayaquil alone. In the mountain area, however, Communist progress is slow, the principal reason being the influence of the Church. Practically speaking, Communism in the Sierra is paralyzed. Although attempts have been made to re-organize and re-vitalize the Communist Party in the Sierra, little has been accomplished, especially in Quito, where not even fifty new membership cards have been issued. The reason for this lies in the lack of activity of the party members, particularly GUSTAVO RECERRA, Secretary General of the party.

In Guayaquil, SAAD informed this source that the American Federation of Labor is organizing another international congress in conjunction with the International Labor Office. This meeting will take place in Philadelphia and delegates from Ecuador will be there.

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FRANCISCO MORA (GUMERINO), prominent Guayaquil Communist, stated that in spite of the fact that he had been beaten by the Ecuadorian police at various intervals during the past year without justifiable motives he was still undismayed and, at the present time, is engaged in the organization of new Communist cells.

EDMOND VILLER, translator of cables for "El Telegrafo", Guayaquil newspaper, is said to be one of the Communist leaders in that city.

RAYMOND JEAN MERIGUET (COUSSEGAL), a Frenchman who was General Secretary of the Movimiento Popular Antitotalitario del Ecuador, and who is a close associate of the leaders of the Communist Party, was arrested while on an organizing tour at La Libertad, Ecuador, October 27, 1943. Source 2 stated MERIGUET would be confined to Maldonado, a small town in the North of Ecuador. This confinement subsequently took place. However, the subject has since been permitted to change his place of confinement to Tulcan, Ecuador, which is on the Colombian border.

COMMUNISTS RESIDING IN EMERALDAS

Source F furnished the following list of Communists residing in Esmeraldas, Ecuador:

NELSON ESTUPINAN BAAS

One of the Communist leaders. He was born in Esmeraldas and is a commercial accountant by profession. He works at the agency of motorships of the firm Nery Majarrango in Esmeraldas.

GAVIER CARDENAS

Born in Esmeraldas. He is without any known occupation. He has been a Communist propagandist during the past years. At present he is residing in Esmeraldas.

EVERTO DIAZ

Born in Esmeraldas. He is a jeweler by profession and has a shop in that city.

HUGO DIAZ

Born in Esmeraldas. He has no known profession and is not employed. He resides in the village of Limones.

NARCISO DIAZ

Born in Esmeraldas. He is a shoemaker by profession and has his own workshop in that city.

NARCISO DEQUET

General Secretary of the Party. He was born in Esmeraldas. He is a school teacher by profession, teaching at the School "21st of September" in this city, which school is the property of the Ecuadorian Government.

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COMMUNISTS RESIDING IN ESMERALDAS

JOHN ESPANTOSO	Born in Esmeraldas. He is a carpenter by profession and works at his shop in that city.
ERADIO KLINGER	Born in Esmeraldas. He is a journeyman by profession and works in Esmeraldas.
ALEXANDRO MONTALVO	Born in Esmeraldas, he is a shoemaker by profession. He works at his shop in that city and is one of the principal exponents of Communist ideas.
Dr. RICARDO PARRIDES	A physician by profession. He is the chief Communist. He is from Quito but has been residing in this province for about three years and has established a clinic in Esmeraldas.
MANUEL PERANDES	Born in the interior of the country, he has resided in Esmeraldas for many years. He is a shoemaker by profession and works at the Professional School Luis Tello, the property of the State of Ecuador.
BENITO QUINERO	Born in Esmeraldas, he is a journeyman by profession and works in that city.
DANIEL SOLIS	He was born in the interior of the country. He has been residing for many years in Esmeraldas. He is a school teacher at the School "Centro Educacional America" in that city, which school is the property of the Ecuadorian Government.

COMMUNISTS RESIDING IN MANTA

Source G informed that MANUEL BOREVIERIA, a barber in Manta, who has his shop in the square facing the Midland Hotel, is one of the main Communist agitators there and is continually spreading Communist propaganda among the harbor workers.

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TROTSKYISM

Source B learned from a conversation with ARTURO EICHLER and Dr. FRANCISCO BUSTI, leading Trotskyites in Quito, that the number of Trotskyites has not increased lately but that they feel there are many who are gradually being converted to Trotskyism through personal talks. They stated they are being watched closely by American, British and local authorities but that the authorities will never be able to discover activities which are really important. As an example, they mentioned the case of an United States official who came to Ecuador some time during the Fall of 1943. Allegedly, he visited Ecuador as an expert on quinine business but, in reality, he was a secret Trotskyite agent from Trotskyite headquarters in the United States. He carried no propaganda matter but contacted the local Trotskyites. He informed them that one of the most fertile fields in the United States for the infiltration of Trotskyism is the concentration camps.

Source H, an United States Government official, advised that he could only remember two so-called quinine experts coming to Ecuador during the year 1943. The first of these, he advised, was CHARLES COSSE, an American who is President of the American Quinine Company of New York City. This man appeared to be about 45 years of age and was temporarily employed by the Federal Economic Administration to advise on changes to be made in the quinine laboratories of Ecuador. He appeared to be a four-flusher and, apparently, actually did not know much about the quinine business. He was dismissed from his employment with the F.E.A. after he had subsequently gone to Peru and Guatemala. He was thought to have been in Ecuador in about June of 1943. There was no evidence that COSSE was communistically inclined.

The second quinine expert was LIND PETERSEN. He described Petersen as a very wealthy Norwegian citizen of Guatemala City. He was in the Royal Norwegian Air Force in the last World War and has contributed considerable money to the Norwegian Air Force during this war. Near Guatemala City, he owns the Finca Zapote, at Sacuintla. He was temporarily employed by the F.E.A. in setting up cascarilla nurseries. He was in Ecuador in November of 1943 and left for Guatemala on November 26, 1943. He expressed no radical views whatsoever and appeared to be a most highly respectable citizen.

A check of the Immigration records in Quito and Guayaquil failed to reveal a record of either of these men having either entered or departed from Ecuador.

In Guayaquil, Source B determined from the leading Communists that they had many complaints to make against the Socialists who, they stated, are actively engaged in undermining the Communist organization. The Communists criticize Socialist efforts and call them Trotskyite activities whose aim, they claim, is to disseminate disorder and anarchism among the organized workers and other classes of the population. In the opinion of PEDRO SARD, Trotskyism is, as yet, only poorly

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organized but it is nevertheless growing. One of the reasons for this growth, he stated, was the cooperation of Russia with the American and British Imperialists. This is not liked by many who, discouraged in their expectations, resort to Trotskyism as a means of fostering the world revolution. He claimed that their activities in Ecuador are, at the present time, limited to obstructing organization and similar efforts of the labor syndicates and to criticizing the cooperation of the syndicates with the cause of democracy. It is his opinion that Trotskyism in Ecuador is relatively stronger than in neighboring Latin American countries and he pointed out that the contemplated Socialist Congress in Cuba is the result of Ecuadoran Socialist initiative.

In the Spring of 1943, Source I informed that there was a Trotskyite meeting held at the home of KURT SITTENFELD. The head of the movement at this time appeared to be FRANK WUNDEL and he introduced himself as the leader of the German-speaking revolutionary Socialist group, also known as the Trotskyites or the Fourth International Center. He stated that the Trotskyites want a world revolution and do not want to fight against Hitler just to help American Imperialism. He reportedly stated that the Americans want to enslave more of the South Americans. Therefore, the Trotskyites' program calls for hindering of the activities of the Americans in any way possible. One way this is accomplished is to sabotage the "free movements", which are inclined to help the Americans. He stated that as far as Russia is concerned, the Trotskyites must fight against Stalin, who is driving the poor enslaved Russian people into death for American Imperialists. He stated the Trotskyites cooperate in a certain way with the British and Inter-Allied activities but just to the extent where they create difficulties between these groups.

This same source determined from RAYMOND MERIGUET, prior to his confinement, that the Trotskyites are very strong in Ecuador. However, he said that, contrary to general belief, the district in charge of Ecuador is in Bolivia. He said they have the following Five Point Program:

- (1) Against Yankee Imperialism in South America
- (2) Against Stalin for Free Russia
- (3) To use British and American interests against each other
- (4) Against treacherous United States paid agents (example, LORENZO TOLEZANO)
- (5) To promote revolution wherever possible in South America.

Source J stated that MERIGUET informed him that the purpose of the Trotskyites was to drive a wedge isolating Russia from England and the United States. He stated that their purpose was to aid Russia in the war effort since they were not opposed to Russia but only to Stalin. When questioned as to the

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identities of Trotskyites in Ecuador, MERIGUET furnished the names of Dr. GONZALO GONZALEZ, JULIO REYES, and ANASTASIO VITERI, writers for the "El Dia" newspaper of Quito. He ironically stated that the United States had sent VITERI to the University of Michigan on a scholarship.

According to Source B, the leading Trotskyites of Quito are Dr. FRANCISCO BRETH, M.D., Czechoslovakian Jew, who he believes to be the leader, ARTURO RICHLER, FRANZ WUERFL, and HORT BITTENFELD. WUERFL, an Austrian, owner of Lucul Delicatessen Stores, together with BITTENFELD, a German Jewish dentist, attempted to form a Trotskyite branch in Guayaquil and offered to supply the money for the establishment of same.

The only additional Trotskyite whose name Source K was able to furnish was HANS WUERFL, elder brother of FRANZ WUERFL. He appeared to be the best informed in regard to Communist literature and it seemed likely that he might be the mental leader. On one occasion he remarked that Trotsky once said "The most stupid class is the capitalistic class." Continuing, he said they have certainly proved it in this war by not opening a second front and thereby permitting all the world to see that Russia alone is fighting Germany. He claimed the German soldiers which are prisoners of war in Russia, as well as the English and American soldiers, will all return home filled with Communist doctrine. He said that if there is not a change after this war it will have been fought in vain.

Source K was advised that the organization of an International Communist Party. He said it was a FREE GERMAN ASSOCIATION - FRONT ORGANIZATION, which group would be completely in the hands of only trusted men. He stated that he was not a member of the group, but that the most dangerous elements are members of the Free German Movement in Quito. As early as June, 1943, there appeared to be considerable discord among the Free German Movement in Quito. On June 8, 1943, Source I informed that BOBBY ASTOR of Quito addressed a communication to the Comite Latino Americano Alemania Libre at Apartado 10214, Mexico, D.F. In this communication ASTOR spoke of the differences in opinion in the local Free German Movement and stated that he has always advocated the fullest cooperation with the addressee. However, the new president, Dr. HERBERT HENZ, has wished to join with the movement headed by Dr. AUGUST SIMON, leader of the other free German movement in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Source K stated that HENZ is alleged to have been expelled from Germany in 1934.

Source H stated in August of 1943 that he has been able to avoid having the Ecuadoran Free German group join with other free German groups established on the American continent. He stated that the president, Dr. HENZ, has cooperated in connection with this policy. However, at the same time, he has noticed a very peculiar attitude on the part of ARTURO RICHLER, BOBBY ASTOR, and HERBERT MAX KATZ. He stated that these men seemed to have a special interest in seeing that the Ecuadoran Free German group join with the Mexican group. To reach this objective, they have provoked no end of trouble within the local group. He further stated that, in his opinion, the Mexican group is dominated by Communists.

The communication received on January 22, 1944, reflects that the purpose of the association is to gather together all anti-Semites in the Germanic area and to

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In regard to the Free German Movement, Source B stated that ASTOR had admitted he is a Communist and at one time travelled for a period of two years in Russia. Both WENNER FALCK and Dr. WALTER HUBER are communistically inclined members of the Free German Movement. EICHLER, a Trotskyite who was formerly head of the Free German group in Quito, is in favor of a world-wide Communist revolution while ASTOR, FALCK and HUBER desire only a Communist revolution within Germany.

Source K informed that the opposition to the Free German Movement has been growing steadily and several meetings have been held among this element.

On January 13, 1944, a meeting was held between EDUARDO EGERT, BOBBY ASTOR, and others, in ASTOR's house. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a new Communist movement. EGERT was of the opinion that there must be organized at first, in an illegal form, all the foreign Communists in Ecuador and then this international Communist Party would control all the other movements in Ecuador. He explained it further by saying that the Communist Party has to try to enlist members belonging to all free movements. These, in turn, will have to do a kind of undermining work which will be directed by the Communist Party. He stated that a movement such as this has already been started in Guayaquil but only among a very few foreigners. They do not work with the members of the Ecuadoran Communist Party because they feel this arrangement would not be very satisfactory for all concerned. However, one man is in contact with the Ecuadoran Party.

BOBBY ASTOR was against the organization of an international Communist Party. He said it would be easier to organize a national group first, which group would be completely in the hands of only trusted men. He stated that he approves a set-up like in Mexico, where the best Communist elements are members of the Free German group and, therefore, this group is very powerful and gives all the orders. EGERT, on the contrary, stated that there should be a Communist Party, or something like a central committee, which would give orders to the other organizations. Nevertheless, he had nothing to say against the organization of a Communistic Free German Movement.

It should be noted that the full name of BOBBY ASTOR is ROSE ALFRED STERN-ASTOR. He is the owner of the Bobby Astor Night Club in Quito. He was born March 17, 1908 in Oberstein Rhineland, Germany. He is alleged to have been expelled from Germany in 1934.

Source K advised that the leaders of the Communist inspired Free German group met on January 22, 1944, and adopted a constitution which they expect to present to the Government of Ecuador for approval in the near future. This source reliably reported that the new group, dominated by BOBBY ASTOR and EDUARDO EGERT of Quito, will bear the name Free German Association of Ecuador, thereby distinguishing it from the already existing Free German group. Coincidentally, it is noted that the name adopted by the new Free German organization is similar to the name of a group in Mexico which is also under Communist control.

The constitution adopted on January 22, 1944, reflects that the purpose of the association is to gather together all anti-Nazis in the Guayaquil area and to

Quito, Ecuador
January 25, 1964

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stimulate in them democratic thinking in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter. Further, to cooperate with other organizations composed of anti-Nazi Germans, and to develop propaganda favorable to the Republic of Ecuador among friends and relatives abroad. The constitution is so written that a relatively few people can dominate and control its affairs. This, of course, is in line with the ideas of its founders. The headquarters of the group will be situated in Guayaquil, despite the fact that its founders expect and realize that most of the members will be drawn from the Sierra region. However, this was purposely planned, inasmuch as it was believed that people in Quito would offer no opposition to the approval of the association on the part of the Ecuadorian Government.

Further, the constitution provides that all meetings will be held in Guayaquil and that the "Regional Delegates" of the association may vote for all members living within their regions who fail to attend a meeting. This was another means by which the founders expect to exercise a close control over the association. According to their present plans, the "Regional Delegates" will be persons sympathetic to the Communist cause and will attend all meetings. It is expected that very few members living in the Sierra region will be willing to spend the time and money travelling to Guayaquil for the meetings and the "Regional Delegates" will possess the right to vote for them. To further concentrate the power of the association in the hands of a relatively few, regular meetings are scheduled to take place every two years and the directors and officers will serve for an equal period. In order to control the membership of the organization and prevent anti-Communists from gaining admittance, the Board of Directors must approve all applicants for membership. This same approval applies as well to expulsion of members. To forestall possible criticism of other anti-Nazi Communists on the part of members of the association, the constitution specifically provides that any member who criticizes any person because of race, creed, religion, or political views is subject to expulsion.

At the time this constitution was adopted, it was decided that PETER JOLOWICH of Guayaquil would be the first president, BOBBY ASTOR would serve as vice president, and HERBERT MAX KATZ would be given the post of vocal. No one was selected for the post of secretary.

It is believed that the PETER JOLOWICH of Guayaquil, who will be the first president of this organization should it be approved by the Ecuadorian Government, is PETER JANOWITZ, an Austrian who was born May 26, 1914, in Vienna, Austria.

(COPY)

Quito, Ecuador
January 22, 1944

CONSTITUTION OF THE FREE GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF ECUADOR

TITLE I

NAME, PURPOSES, GOVERNING BODIES, AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article One

This association shall be called the "Free German Association of Ecuador."

Article Two

This association has for its purpose the gathering together of all anti-Nazi Germans and democratic residents of Guayaquil and other places in Ecuador who satisfy the requirements stipulated in Article Six, in order to stimulate in them democratic thinking in accordance with the ideals stipulated by the United Nations in the Atlantic Charter. Also to cooperate and exchange opinions with other organizations composed of anti-Nazi Germans, and to develop propaganda favorable to the hospitable Republic of Ecuador among the members' friends and relatives abroad.

Article Three

The governing bodies of the association are the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

Article Four

The association shall not take part in any political affairs involving the Republic of Ecuador, either externally or internally.

Article Five

The association shall maintain its headquarters in the city of Guayaquil; however, its activities may be extended throughout all of Ecuador.

TITLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Article Six

The membership of this association is not numerically limited. However, each prospective member must possess the following requisites before being admitted:

(a) To have a voice and vote in the General Assembly.

(b) To qualify for any position within the Association.

- (a) Must possess, or could have possessed, German nationality according to the German laws in effect on January 29, 1933.
- (b) Has demonstrated in an uninterrupted fashion his firm adherence to the ideals of democracy, and has not been associated with Fascist or pro-Fascist organizations or groups.
- (c) Must be at least twenty-one years of age.
- (d) Has lived a respectable life both publicly and privately.

Article Seven

The Board of Directors shall approve all applications for membership and likewise pass upon all expulsions.

Article Eight

Members are obligated to the Association as follows:

- (a) To attend the regular meetings and other functions of the Association.
- (b) To faithfully and honorably discharge the duties which the Association entrusts to them.
- (c) To uphold the prestige and good name of the Association.
- (d) Not to engage in any political matters effecting the Republic of Ecuador, either externally or internally.
- (e) Not to circulate any rumors with respect to the religion, race, or political creed of any group or person fighting for the re-establishment of a democratic Germany.
- (f) To pay their Association dues.

Article Nine

Any member who fails to discharge the obligations imposed upon him by items (c), (d), (e), or (f) of Article Eight shall be expelled from the Association.

Article Ten

The members possess the following rights and privileges:

- (a) To have a voice and vote in the General Assembly.
- (b) To qualify for any position within the Association.

- (c) To expect of the Association that it will do all in its power to obtain punishment of those persons responsible for the atrocities and destruction that has taken place in Germany since 1933, and which has placed the world's civilization in danger.
- (d) To expect the Association's moral, legal, and material aid in event he is slandered or persecuted because of political reasons.
- (e) To expect, in accordance with post-war economic legislation in Germany, the association to defend the member's rights to indemnification and the return of all possessions lost in Germany as a result of National Socialism.
- (f) To expect the Association to strive to make it possible for the member to return to Germany or be moved to other countries, after the war.
- (g) To expect the Association to lend its principal attention to the economical and social interests of the victims of German anti-Semitism.

TITLE III

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article Eleven

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the Association.

Article Twelve

The regular meeting of the General Assembly shall be held every second year in the month of December. However, a special meeting of this body may be held at any time two-thirds of the members request it in writing. Such written notice must also state the reason for which the meeting is to be held. The Board of Directors likewise may call a special meeting whenever they see fit.

Article Thirteen

The Secretary of the Association shall at least seven days in advance of each meeting place a notice in one or more of the major newspapers, setting forth the date, place, and the purpose of the meeting.

Article Fourteen

No business may be transacted at a meeting which has not been set forth in the announcement of it.

Article Fifteen

There is no quorum necessary to conduct a meeting of the General Assembly except in those cases where the Constitution is to be changed or the Association is to be dissolved, then two-thirds of the members must be represented. A Regional Delegate may vote for each member who is absent from a meeting, and in this manner represent him.

Article Sixteen

The General Assembly shall be presided over by the President and in his absence, the Vice President shall assume this function. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the President or the Vice President shall designate the Director who shall preside over the meeting.

Article Seventeen

The functions of the General Assembly are:

- (a) To elect the Directors and the Regional Delegates. In order to be elected to the post of Director or Regional Delegate, it is necessary to secure a majority of all the votes. Each election shall be supervised by three inspectors, two appointed by the General Assembly and the third designated by the President.
- (b) To change the Constitution and dissolve the Association. In order to change the Constitution or dissolve the Association, it is necessary to obtain two-thirds of the votes represented at the meeting.
- (c) To dispose of the property and funds of the Association, and in case of dissolution to make such disposition in accordance with the Civil Code of Ecuador.
- (d) To pass resolutions relative to the business of the Association; each such resolution must secure a majority of the votes in order to pass.

TITLE IVBOARD OF DIRECTORSArticle Eighteen

The Board of Directors shall be composed of four persons: The President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and a "Vocal" (a non-officer director). The Directors shall serve for a period of two years and thereafter until such time as their successors are chosen by the General Assembly.

Article Nineteen

The members of the Board of Directors shall select from their membership, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Vocal. Each month the various officerships shall rotate: the Vice President shall succeed the President, the Secretary shall succeed the Vice President, and the Vocal shall succeed the Secretary.

Article Twenty

A majority of the votes of the Board of Directors is necessary to pass a resolution. However, in the event of a tie vote, the President's vote shall be deciding.

Article Twenty-one

The functions of the Board of Directors are:

- (a) To determine places in the country where delegates are warranted and to appoint such delegates.
- (b) In event the post of Delegate is vacated, to appoint another person from the same region to fill the vacancy.
- (c) To pass upon all monetary affairs of the Association in instances where the amount exceeds 100 sucres.
- (d) To maintain discipline in the Association and see that each member abides by the Constitution.
- (e) To execute the resolutions of the General Assembly.
- (f) To generally administrate the affairs of the Association and see that the resolutions are orderly and not contradictory.
- (g) To pass upon the admission and expulsion of members.
- (h) To legally represent the Association and delegate duties to its members.
- (i) To present reports to the General Assembly concerning its activities.

TITLE VTHE DIRECTORSArticle Twenty-two

The President is vested with the following powers:

- (a) To preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (b) Along with the Secretary to sign the minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (c) Along with the Secretary to sign all communications and contracts approved by the Board of Directors or the General Assembly.
- (d) To pay all expenses of the corporation which do not exceed one hundred sucres.
- (e) To execute the resolutions of the Board of Directors.

Article Twenty-three

The Vice President shall assume the presidential functions in event the President is absent.

Article Twenty-four

The Secretary is vested with the following powers:

- (a) To attend all meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors and to draw up and sign the minutes of these meetings.
- (b) To summons the meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (c) Along with the President, to sign all communications and contracts approved by the Board of Directors or the General Assembly.
- (d) To preserve and file all papers and documents relating to the activities of the Association.
- (e) To maintain membership records of the Association.

Article Twenty-five

The Vocal shall assume the functions of the Secretary in event of the latter's absence.