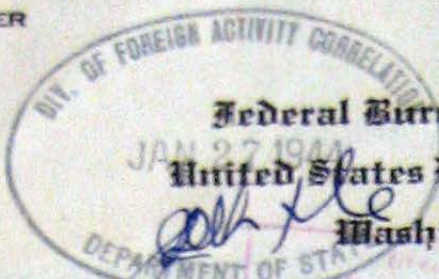


JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

M. Griffin

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In reply, please refer
to 64-200-12-8

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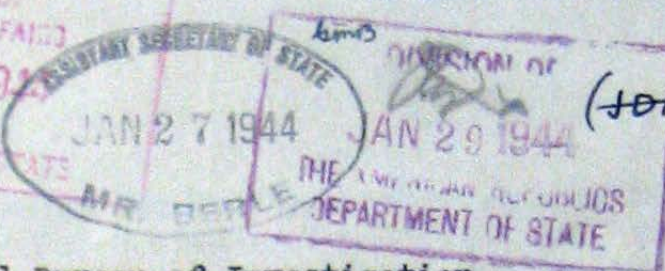
Date:

January 26 1944

To:

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

APR 10 1944



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 concerning Communist activities in Ecuador recently received from a confidential and reliable source.

It will be noted that Ecuadoran Communists contemplate the formation of a country-wide anti-Fascist organization which will operate as a Communist front. Your attention is also directed to information concerning the formation of a secret leftist youth organization known as "Juventud Socialista Unificada".

This information has been made available to the American Embassy, Military Attache, and Naval Attache in 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

822.008/78

PS/HD

Confidential File

January 26 1944

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN ECUADOR
Quito, Ecuador

PROVINCIAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE, QUITO

The following information concerning the Conferencia Provincial Antifascista de Pichincha (Provincial Anti-Fascist Conference) held in Quito, Ecuador, from September 20 - 27, 1943, was furnished by reliable and confidential Source A who took an active part in the preparations for and the carrying out of the program.

On September 13, 1943, a meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Conference was held in the quarters of the MOVIMIENTO ANTIFASCISTA DEL ECUADOR in Quito. Delegates were present from the Communist Party, the Antifascist Movement, Union Democratica del Ecuador, and most of the Labor Unions, including those of the Teachers, Shoemakers, Shoe-blacks, Carpenters; the Spanish Republicans (by MANUEL OCANA DORADO), and the Free Germans (by HERBERT MAX KATZ and WERNER FALK). RAYMOND JEAN MERIGUET (COUSSEGAL) of Quito, organizer of the Conference, stated that other Free Groups had been invited but apparently had not sent any representatives, although a delegate might be expected later from the Czech group.

Mr. MANUEL OCANA (DORADO) was designated Chairman of the meeting and various resolutions were passed for the conduct of the Conference during the week of September 20th through 27th, the first session to be held the evening of the 20th in a room in the Central University. On Tuesday, September 21st, another meeting of the Organizing Committee was scheduled; on Wednesday the various committees appointed from the members of the Conference would confer; on Thursday another Organizing Committee meeting; and on Friday the sub-Committees would again confer; on Saturday the final full session was scheduled in a meeting hall in the University. At this first meeting of the Organizing Committee the general program to be approved by the Conference was stated by MERIGUET to be the formation of local Anti-Fascist Committees in all parts of the country, to be united in one single central organization, and thus to unify Antifascists throughout Ecuador.

At the opening session of the Conference on September 20, 1943, the first speaker was an attorney named ISAAC SANTOS, delegate from the ALIANZA DEMOCRATICA ECUATORIANA, which is a political coalition supporting the presidential candidacy of exiled JOSE MARIA VELASCO IBARRA in the elections of the spring of 1944. There have been no indications thus far that SANTOS is connected with the PCE (Communist Party of Ecuador). He called upon all Anti-Fascists of the Western Hemisphere to unite in defense of Democratic principles which included not only the concepts of the French Revolution, "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" but also an element of Economic liberty. He indicated that in America we were doing no more than "play" at Democracy, and that in Ecuador industry and the economy must be reorganized to give the people true economic freedom.

The second speaker was RAYMOND JEAN MERIGUET (COUSSEGAL), French

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Communist, who spoke on the subject of "The Fight Against Fascism." He made a brief analysis of Fascism to illustrate the principal points against which the United Nations are fighting.

Third on the program was PRIMITIVO BARRETO of Quito, delegate from the UNION SINDICAL DEL PICHINCHA and incidentally one of the leaders in Quito of the Ecuadoran Communist Party. He spoke on the menace of the "Fifth Column" and emphasized the contrast between Nazi barbarism and what is its exact opposite, the Soviet Regime which "has permitted individual liberty, collective liberty, and where the ambition of the workers is surpassed, and which likewise defends with valor the public interest," etc. He went on to eulogize the USSR, indicating it has been able to defend itself so well because it "represents the dearest interests of the popular masses. Likewise something has been said concerning the injustices engendered by the Capitalist regime. There has been some truth and some exaggeration, but it is certain that it is not incumbent to introduce ourselves into such a delicate problem. Furthermore, it can be said that Imperialism works for dangerous ends, but also we must recognize that it has its good side with Churchill, Roosevelt, Wallace and Willkie, the symbols of Democracy. It is known to all that the era of economic imperialism and dollar diplomacy has ended forever; the vision of the people of America must recognize the principles expounded by the symbols of Democracy..." He continued to urge the uniting of the laboring class to bring about a genuine Democracy for the people of Ecuador after the present war.

The fourth speaker was BENNO WEISER of Quito, an Austrian refugee newspaper columnist and writer, whose topic was "The Anti-Fascist War, Our War," and his argument was that it is "our war" because winning it will mean the downfall of Nazi-Fascism. He indicated that much fear is held of the Soviet Union, but in his opinion the sincerity of Russia should be apparent to all and "if the world of tomorrow degenerates it will not be the fault of Russia..."

After the meeting RAYMOND MERIGUET, in a private conversation, was asked about the speech of BENNO WEISER and he replied that the talk had been all right even if WEISER did not have the same idea in mind concerning "evolution to Democracy" as the others, namely the "suppression of the influence of Capitalism which prevents the development of a true Democracy." MERIGUET stated that the removal of this influence should be accomplished not now by the force of arms, but gradually by securing control over the masses of the people. MERIGUET indicated a definite anti-"Yankee" attitude, stating that he did not trust a Czech refugee newspaperman, Dr. PEDRO TRAUBNER (who does translating work in the American Embassy), because he was working "for the Yankees" and he wouldn't "trust anybody who works for the Yankees."

At subsequent sessions of the Organizing Committee and the full Conference, it was resolved to form a Coordination Commission which was to coordinate the activities of the various local Anti-Fascist groups which MERIGUET planned

to form in all communities in Ecuador. Such Commission should be supported by all the groups which sent delegates to the Provincial Anti-Fascist Conference and should be set up as a rival group to the presently existing Inter-Allied Committee (headed by PIERRE LAFARGUE) in which MERIGUET and the Anti-Fascist groups wield little if any influence. For the purpose of working out the programs and policies the Conference proceeded to the election of four sub-committees each consisting of three persons. It was later determined in private conversation with MERIGUET that he had carefully arranged for at least one Communist to be elected to each sub-Committee. The voting was conducted by roll call in particular sequence of the delegates to the conference, and each should announce the name of the person for whom he voted to be a member of the sub-committee under consideration. PRIMITIVO BARRETO (Communist Party member) was placed at the top of the list of delegates and, as had been anticipated by MERIGUET, the indifferent delegates voted for the candidates proposed by BARRETO who voted first on each ballot. Following the election of the sub-committees, the President of the Conference, CESAR ENDARA G., a leading Communist who at one time studied in Russia, proposed that when the respective sub-committees had completed their work a permanent central coordination commission should be formed to continue the work of organizing all anti-Fascists in the country, to be composed of the chairmen of the four sub-committees. Such proposal was adopted and the Coordination Commission was accordingly formed, consisting of three Communists and one member of the Socialist Party.

On September 27, 1943, at 6:15 p.m. the final meeting of the Conference was held at the Salon Maximo of the Central University, the speakers being CESAR ENDARA G., Communist leader, GUSTAVO BECERRA G., Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Ecuador, and LUIS MALDONADO (TAMAYO), representing the Socialist Party. BECERRA was officially listed as delegate of the MOVIMIENTO ANTI-FASCISTA DEL ECUADOR.

Following the conclusion of the week's deliberations, the Conference published a small booklet entitled "INFORMES Y RESOLUCIONES - CONFERENCIA PROVINCIAL ANTIFASCISTA DE PICHINCHA." This booklet lists the following as officers of the Conference:

- CESAR ENDARA G. - - - - - President
- LUIS MALDONADO (TAMAYO) - - - - Vice-President
- ERNESTO ENDARA G. - - - - - Recording Secretary
- GUSTAVO CARRERA - - - - - Corresponding Secretary

Of these the first two have been discussed above. ERNESTO ENDARA G. is stated by reliable Source B to be a brother of CESAR ENDARA G., and a Communist Party member, officer of the UNION SINDICAL DEL PICHINCHA, and a correspondent of VICENTE LOMBARDO (TOLEDANO). This source was unable to give any information concerning the background or activities of GUSTAVO CARRERA, other than that he was a member of the Organizing Committee of the Conference.

This booklet further lists the following delegates to the Conference:

Movimiento Antifascista del Ecuador - RAYMOND MERIGUET, GUSTAVO BECERRA, ENRIQUE VERDU (of whom the first two have already been discussed, and concerning VERDU Source B was in possession of no information);

Alianza Democratica Ecuatoriana - Attorney ISAAC SANTOS (mentioned above);

Union Sindical del Pichincha - PRIMITIVO BARRETO (mentioned above as a speaker at first session), MANUEL RIVAS (a secretary of the Union Sindical), and ERNESTO ENDARA G. (mentioned above);

Union General de Empleados de Comercio - GUSTAVO CARRERA (mentioned above), and LUIS ALMEIDA (concerning whom Source B had no information);

Sindicato Nacional de Educadores - TIRSO GOMEZ (no record in possession of Source B);

Sindicato de Escritores y Artistas - CARLOS BRAVOMALO R. (operator of Communist bookstore and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Ecuador according to Source B);

Partido Socialista Ecuatoriana - RUBEN SILVA (no record Source B) and JORGE MALDONADO C. (mentioned above);

Partido Comunista Ecuatoriano - GUSTAVO VALENCIA (also head of Carpenters' Union), CESAR ENDARA G. (mentioned above), and CARLOS LALAMA (also Treasurer of the Ecuadoran Communist Party);

Alianza Femenina Ecuatoriana - NELA MARTINEZ (known Party member and employee in the Quinine section of the Corporacion Ecuatoriana de Fomento);

Agrupacion Cultural de Trabajadores Ecuatorianos "Lombardo Toledano" - LUIS M. PAZMINO (no record Source B except also known to be a member of Organizing Committee of the Conference), GERARDO RAZA (no record Source B), and CESAR H. MOCOLLON (no record Source B);

Sindicato Union de Fabricas "21 de Enero" - LUIS RODRIGUEZ (no record Source B), and VICTOR PAZMINO (no record Source B);

Sindicato de Operarios de Zapateria - MODESTO RIVERA (no record Source B), and ROBERTO DIAZ (no record Source B);

Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Madera - LUIS PAZMINO (CABEZAS) (no record Source B), and LUIS E. MONTENEGRO (who previously visited the United States and Mexico with GUSTAVO VALENCIA as representatives of this (the Carpenters') union);

Sociedad de Betuneros - LOPE LAPUERTA (no record Source B);

Sindicato de Fotografos - MIGUEL WENGEROW (no record Source B);

Sindicato Unico de Sastres y Modistas - JOSE ALVARO (PCE member), and OCTAVIANO TERAN (no record Source B);

Comite de Empresa de la Fabrica de Muebles de la Caja del Seguro - CARLOS PANAFIEL and VICTOR LOPEZ (no record on either Source B);

Comite de Defensa Indigena - AURELIO PADILLA (no record Source B);

Comite Indigena Antifascista de Yanahuanico - DOLORES CAGUANGO (no record Source B);

Comite Indigena Antifascista de Juan Montalvo - JESUS GUALAVISI (Communist Party leader of the village of Cayambe, north of Quito);

Accion Republicana Espanola - MANUEL OCANA (DORADO);

Movimiento Aleman Pro-Democracia y Libertad - WERNER FALCK and HERBERT MAX KATZ (no record Source B except as members of Free German Movement);

Comite de Austriacos Libres - CHARLES RAPOPORT (no record Source B).

The following are listed as members of the Comite Provincial Antifascista de Pichincha:

Secretary-General - RAYMOND MERIGUET;
 Secretary of the Interior - RUBEN SILVA (no record Source B);
 Recording and Corresponding Secretary - GUSTAVO CARRERA (no record Source B);
 Organizing and Statistical Secretary - LUIS M. PAZMINO (mentioned above);
 Secretary for Agitation and Propaganda - LUIS AIMEIDA (no record Source B);
 Treasurer and Secretary of Financial Aid - GUSTAVO BECERRA O. (Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Ecuador);
 Press Secretary - CESAR ENDARA G. (mentioned above as PCE member);
 Liaison Officer with other Committees in the Republic - ERNESTO ENDARA G. (mentioned above as PCE member);
 Indian Representative - DOLORES CACUANGO (mentioned above).

The members of the Regional Committee for the Sierra of the Movimiento Antifascista del Ecuador are listed as follows:

Secretary-General - - - - - RAYMOND MERIGUET
 Treasurer - - - - - GUSTAVO BECERRA O.
 Recording and Corresponding Secretary - ENRIQUE VERDU
 Secretary for Foreign Relations - - - - ABRAHAM FEICHER (no record Source B)
 Press Secretary - - - - - MANUEL OCANA (DORADO)
 First Secretary for Labor Relations - - PRIMITIVO BARRETO
 Second Secretary for Labor Relations - ERNESTO ENDARA G.
 Secretary of Organization - - - - - DR. EDUARDO LUDENA (no record Source B)
 Propaganda Secretary - - - - - DR. EMILIO UZCATEGUI (no record Source B)
 Secretary of the Feminine Section - - - NELA MARTINEZ (mentioned above)

In addition to the above committees, the Secretary-General of the Coastal Region Committee is given as ENRIQUE GIL (GILBERT) (Communist writer and leader of Guayaquil) and the National Coordination Committee members are stated to be ENRIQUE GIL (GILBERT) and RAYMOND MERIGUET.

In the booklet are set out the various resolutions adopted by the Conference concerning the fight against Fascism, the fight against Fascism in Ecuador, the plan for organization of the Anti-Fascist movement in Ecuador, and concerning the post-war era. Strict adherence to the terms of the Atlantic Charter is proposed, and the full text of the latter document is set out. Indicative of the efforts to infiltrate the Indian population of the country was the presence at the Conference of Indian delegates from the Cayambe region, DOLORES CACUANGO and JESUS GUALAVISI, whose pictures are printed in the booklet of resolutions. It has previously been noted that Communist organization tactics among the Indians have met with some success in the vicinity of Cayambe, but very little elsewhere.

ARREST OF RAYMOND MERIGUET

Source A indicated that on October 16, 1943, RAYMOND MERIGUET started for Guayaquil and Salinas on what he told Source A was an organizing tour for the Anti-Fascist movement, his object being to organize local committees in various

ALBERTO N. TORRES (YOTA) of Guayaquil, listed as an active Party communities in Ecuador. As has previously been reported, he was arrested by local authorities for having obtained his permit by fraud and was sent to Maldonado as a political prisoner. At the time of his arrest he had in his possession an organization plan of the Anti-Fascist movement, thus refuting the assertions of his friends that he was no more than spending his vacation on the seashore. Since his arrest MERIGUET, according to the Quito papers, has been confined at the remote northern village of Maldonado and various anti-Fascist groups have been attempting to secure his release.

Reliable Source C has stated that the leader of the Free French, Captain PIERRE DENNIS of Quito will not attempt to secure MERIGUET's release to go to North Africa and join the French forces. DENNIS has given as his reason that he does not approve of fellow compatriots meddling in local politics and fighting a war with leaflets and Communist propaganda instead of with arms. On December 22, 1943, MERIGUET was still reported confined at Maldonado where he has attracted some attention by professing to go on hunger strikes.

REVISIONS IN LIST OF PARTY MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS

Reliable Source D, who is personally acquainted with a number of the individuals listed below, has advised that some persons in Ecuador previously listed as PCE (Partido Comunista Ecuatoriano) members are not in fact members, and likewise he has noted certain corrections in their names and identities as follows:

LUIS NAPOLSON DILLON was reported as leader of the Julian Revolution of June 9, 1925, which was the beginning of the Communist Party in Ecuador, and DILLON's present whereabouts were stated to be unknown. In fact DILLON died a number of years ago.

RAYMOND MERIGUET was erroneously listed as "Raymond Meringuet." His full true name is RAYMOND JEAN MERIGUET (COUSSECAL).

The individual previously listed as HUMBERTO NELLA (MARTINEZ) is in fact identical with the female Communist of Quito, NELA MARTINEZ and is not identical with HUMBERTO MATA (MARTINEZ).

GILBERTO PAZMINO, who was a delegate of the Frente Obrero Independiente to the Provincial Labor Conference presided over by the Colombian labor leader GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ on October 13, 1942, has since become a traitor to the Communist Party and is no longer a member of same.

FRANKLIN PEREZ (CASTRO) of La Libertad and Ancon (on the peninsula where the Army base of Salinas is located), was erroneously stated to be the son of SUCRE PEREZ (CASTRO), owner of the Guayaquil daily newspaper "El Universo." He is in fact the brother of this newspaper owner.

ALBERTO M. TORRES (VERA) of Guayaquil, listed as an active Party member, is in fact now a traitor to the Communist Party.

JORGE ALMEIDA, student at the Central University of Quito, is not in fact a Communist Party leader, but an active member of the Ecuadoran Socialist Party.

C. GUILLERMO LASSO P., who for the past year has been President of the Ecuadoran Student Federation (Federacion de Estudiantes de Universitarios del Ecuador), is likewise an active member of the Ecuadoran Socialist Party.

A probable addition to the list of actual Party members is the Spanish Republican leader of Quito, MANUEL OGANA (DORADO), who is Quito Correspondent for the Guayaquil daily newspaper "El Telegrafo" and who is listed previously in this memorandum as having taken an active part in the Anti-Fascist Conference, Quito, September 20 - 27, 1943. He is known to be a great friend of RAYMOND MERIGUET and has given many indications during recent months of close connections with Communist activities in the Quito area.

It should be noted in evaluating the significance of membership in the Socialist Party of Ecuador that from 1925, when the Ecuadoran Communist Party was formed, to 1930, when the severance occurred, the Socialist and Communist Parties in this country were one and the same. For this reason it may be said that many "Socialists" in Ecuador are thorough believers in Marxism and the Communist doctrine, with the one exception that they feel it undesirable to submit to the foreign directives of the now supposedly defunct Comintern. Likewise, according to Source D, there are many Socialist Party members who would be Communists were it not for the ill repute in which such Party is held by influential circles in Ecuador.

FORMATION OF "JUVENTUD SOCIALISTA UNIFICADA"

Confidential Source D has further reliably advised that during recent weeks, according to the above-mentioned JORGE ALMEIDA, younger members of the Communist and Socialist Parties and of the Vanguardia Revolucionaria Socialista have, in line with the unification efforts of the Communist Party, formed a new and so far secret organization known as the JUVENTUD SOCIALISTA UNIFICADA. It is patterned after a similar group in Spain and its members need not dissociate themselves from their own political parties. The general purpose of the organization is to form a united front of the younger elements of the left-wing political groups of Ecuador. The Board of Directors includes three Communists, three Socialists, one Vanguardista, and two independents, although no fixed ratio has been set. JORGE ALMEIDA is stated to have been elected President of the new group and the PGE has been accepted in the organization on the grounds that it no longer has foreign ties following the dissolution of the Comintern. Until such time as the "Juventud" deems it desirable the existence of the organization is not to be made public. Politically it will support all propositions of the leftists and possibly publish secretly political leaflets and a periodical to

propagandize its policies.

PROPAGANDA DEVELOPMENTS

Confidential Source E has made a tour of various bookshops in Quito which have previously been noted as distributors of Communist propaganda. Inspection of a considerable number of Communist and left-wing works failed to reveal any further names of foreign bookstores or foreign sources of such literature.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 1 1944
DIVISION OF
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