



Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
SPECIAL MESSENGER

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DISTRIBUTION
JUN 4 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION
JUN 1 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Date: May 30, 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: NELA MARTINEZ (ESPINOSA) - ECUADOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

822.00B/67 +/68
800.00B. Communist International/295

As of possible interest there is enclosed a copy of a memorandum submitted by a reliable, confidential source regarding the captioned individual, a native of Ecuador who has for several years been one of the principal feminine Communist leaders in that country. She is presently head of the Feminine Section of the Ecuadoran Communist Party and has been active in labor and political affairs.

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

Enclosure

CC: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Department
Washington, D. C.
Attention: Brigadier General Carter W. Clarke

CC: Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

THE DIVISION
JUN 28 1945

DCR - ARA Unit
Anal. Mr. J. M. G.
Rev. Mr. G. M. G.
Ext. Mr. G. M. G.

FOR DEFENSE



822.00B/5-3045

CS/MAJ

Confidential File

822.00B/5-3045

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND-760050

April 28, 1945

RE: NELA MARTINEZ (ESPINOZA), with aliases
Nella Martinez, Nela Martinez -
Ecuador

Reliable Source B has advised that NELLA MARTINEZ is an Ecuadoran Communist who, in 1942, was reported to have obtained instructions from the Fourth (possibly Third) International. On June 29, 1943, this woman was reported to be an employee of the Quinine Section of the "Corporacion Ecuatoriana de Fomento." At this time, she is reported to have received a message from former President ARROYO DEL RIO, advising her that if she insisted on continuing attending anti-Nazi meetings, that she would be released from her position.

The following information has been secured from Source C:

In November, 1942, NELA MARTINEZ was reported to be a member of the Ecuadoran Communist Party. Further information received at this time by this source indicated that she was active in labor unions, female political movements and pro-Russian activities.

In December, 1943, information was received that this individual was a member of the Ecuadoran Communist Party and resided in Quito. Information was also received at this time that she was the Secretary of the Feminine Section of the "Movimiento Antifascista del Ecuador" (Anti-Fascist Movement of Ecuador).

In January, 1944, this source received information that this woman was a known Communist. At this time, she was residing at Riofrio #148, Quito. In May, 1944, NELA MARTINEZ was reported to be a woman Communist leader who was then organizing women's committees to campaign for VELASCO IBAÑERA in his effort to become President of Ecuador. These women's committees, in addition to their work for VELASCO IBAÑERA, were also instructed by this individual to spread Communist propaganda at the same time.

In June, 1944, in an article appearing in the Quito daily newspaper "El Comercio," the name of NELA MARTINEZ appears as one of the principal directors of the Ecuadoran Communist Party.

Further information from this source indicates that from August 13 to August 18, 1944, Ecuadoran Communists held a National Congress at Quito. During this Congress, subject gave a report concerning Communist feminine activity.

On the morning of November 5, 1944, at Quito, Ecuador, the Ecuadorian Democratic Alliance sponsored a Mass Meeting at the Plaza Arenas, which had as its purpose the immediate recognition of Russia by Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Communist Party, which at that time formed a part of the Ecuadorian Democratic Alliance, was the most active group in sponsoring this project. Appearing on the program as one of the speakers was NEILA MARTINEZ, who spoke in behalf of the Female Section of the Ecuadorian Democratic Alliance.

On the night of January 3, 1948, at a meeting of the Communist Party of Colombia, subject is reported to have been present and to have made the following statements:

"Although I belong to one of the best families of Ecuador, I am a member of the Communist Party of my country and I am striving to better the conditions of life of the Ecuadorian Indians. I am sure that when these Indians understand the Marxist principles they will accept them and defend them with their lives. After my return to Quito, I intend to go to Mexico City and from there I plan to travel to Russia in order to study Marxist tactics. Upon my return from Russia I will endeavor to put what I have learned into practice in Ecuador."

At this time, she is also said to have stated that she believed it of the utmost importance that Latin American countries follow the example of Mexico, Cuba and Chile, and establish special schools of training for the youth of each country in Marxist theories because in the very near future there shall be but two trends in the world, Marxism and Capitalism.

Subject is reported to have attended the Second General Congress of the Confederation of Latin American Workers which was held at Cali, Colombia, from December 10 to 15, 1944. At this Congress, she represented the "Federacion Indigena" (Indigenous Federation).

Reliable and well-informed Source D has advised that subject has been one of the principal Communists in Ecuador for the past several years. She is said to have been very active during this time, both in politics and labor organizational work. In these fields of activity, she is known to have taken instructions from PEDRO A. SAAB, leading Communist of Ecuador. According to this source, subject is presently the head of the Feminine Section of the Ecuadorian Communist Party.

Reliable Source E has advised that NEILA MARTINEZ is a very intelligent Ecuadorian who has been connected with the Communist Party for the past several years. He reports that although she is single, she has had two sons, the father of whom being MR. RICARDO MARTINEZ, presently Secretary General of the Ecuadorian Communist Party. In addition to being a close friend of PEDRO A. SAAB, NEILA MARTINEZ is reported to be a friend of FIDELAB MARTANA, a Communist,

PRIMITIVO BARRERO, a leading Communist member of Quito, and GUILLERMO LASSO, former Secretary General of the administration.

Source F has advised that the full name of subject is NELA MARTINEZ (ESPINOZA), but that she is commonly called NELA MARTINEZ or NELLA MARTINEZ. She is reported to be residing at the present time at Flores #51 in Quito and to be employed by "Banco Nacional de Fomento" (National Bank of Fomento) at a salary of \$60.96 per month. This source reports that this individual has been active in Communist activities over a long period of time and is considered a leading Communist. He reports that so far as he has been able to ascertain she is not contemplating a trip outside of Ecuador in the immediate future.

As a result of the communication from this source dated 10/24/50 regarding the captioned individual, a source of Ecuador, who has been active in the Political Section of the Ecuadorian Communist Party and has been active in labor and political affairs in Ecuador.

As of possible further interest, there is enclosed a copy of a report submitted by a reliable confidential source indicating that Nela Martinez continues to be active in the Central Committee of the Ecuadorian Communist Party and recently conducted a course in domestic economy at Quito, Ecuador, on behalf of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Finance by which she is presently employed.

This information has been made available in the Bureau Summary to Quito, Ecuador.

Enclosure

cc - Acting Chief of Desk, Intelligence

cc - Department
Washington, D. C.

cc - Assistant Chief of Desk, Intelligence

cc - Department
Washington, D. C.

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