



United States

DIRECTOR



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

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DFF - FC  
FOR VICTORY  
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS  
DE/R  
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RE

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NUMBER 100-338781

Date: June 3, 1946

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

JUN 4 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
DISTRIBUTION OFFICE  
JUN 27 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REM

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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

Subject: Nela Martinez (Espinosa)  
Communist Activities, Ecuador

file

Reference is made to a previous communication from this Bureau to you, dated March 5, 1946, concerning the above-captioned individual.

As of possible interest to you, there is enclosed a copy of a memorandum received from confidential sources containing additional information relative to Nela Martinez (Espinosa).

She returned to Quito, Ecuador, from the Province of Manabi, Ecuador, in February, 1946, inasmuch as the government position which she occupied in that province was not included in the national Ecuadoran budget for 1946. During Martinez' absence from Quito, her position in national Communist Party affairs was largely taken over by one Maria Luisa Gomez de la Torre.

In April, 1946, she allegedly wrote an open letter to Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, Ecuadoran President, in which she severely criticized Velasco Ibarra's usurpation of dictatorial powers.

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

Enclosure

cc: Chief of Naval Intelligence  
Navy Department  
Washington, D. C.

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

Attention: Reading Panel  
Military Intelligence Service

DCR - ARA Unit  
Anal. .... B.M. Bryan  
Rev. ....  
Cat. ....  
Dist. ....

VISA DIVISION  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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HE: NEILA MARTINEZ (ESPINOZA), was

April 24, 1946

On April 4, 1946, Source B reports NEILA MARTINEZ (ESPINOZA), was seen at the Navdy hotel in Ecuador, Ecuador, was seen with Mrs. ISABEL MARTINEZ, a five year old son was struck by an automobile suffering a serious head injury. Since that time she has spent a considerable portion of her time tending to the child. Source B advises that NEILA MARTINEZ tells

NEILA MARTINEZ, formerly Secretary for Feminine Activities on the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador, has resumed her residence in Quito. The subject returned to Quito from the Province of Manabi without employment early in February 1946 inasmuch as the government position which she occupied in that province was not included in the National Ecuadoran Budget for 1946. During MARTINEZ' absence from Quito her position in national Communist Party affairs was largely taken over by her close friend MARIA LUISA GOMEZ de la TORRE, a Quito schoolteacher who has long been active in Communist matters. The subject has not yet succeeded in obtaining further employment.

Although NEILA MARTINEZ has never been known to have been in possession of any a appreciable sum of money, reliable Source B advised that since her return to Quito she has made a point of the fact that she now has fifty thousand sueres (\$3800) which she wishes to invest in a house in Quito. The source of this money is not known although there is a possibility that she is attempting to purchase a house for PEDRO ANTONIO SAAD, whose difficulties in obtaining a residence in Quito have been reported by Source C.

Sources who are in regular attendance at Communist meetings advise that during the period between NEILA MARTINEZ' return to Quito and the issuance of the Velasco Ibarra Decree of March 30, 1946, she did not appear at meetings and she was not mentioned as taking any part in Communist matters. However, immediately after the Decree, when the Communist Party found itself forced to become an underground organization, the subject began to lend enthusiastic support to the Party's endeavors.

On April 3, 1946, the day on which the CTE (Confederacion de Trabajadores del Ecuador) attempted to call a general strike in protest against the abandonment of the constitution and "Velasco's dictatorial measures", NEILA MARTINEZ appeared at various Quito factories to urge solidarity among the workers in adhering to the strike order. Despite the fact that the strike failed and most labor agitators were either arrested or forced into hiding, NEILA MARTINEZ has remained entirely at liberty.

She tried to express to you their desire for order and constitutionalism... You are the friend of the people

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Wife of PEDRO SAAD (ESPINOSA), was

When PEDRO SAAD went into hiding on April 4, 1946, Source D reports that NELA MARTINEZ moved into his room at the Savoy Hotel in downtown Quito and has been living there with Mrs. ISABEL HERRERIA de SAAD since that date. On April 10, 1946, PEDRO SAAD's five year old son was struck by an automobile suffering a serious head injury. Since then the subject has spent a considerable portion of her time taking care of the child. Source B advises that NELA MARTINEZ tells the story that the child's injury was caused deliberately by government agents attempting to bring PEDRO SAAD out of hiding.

Source D advised that the "Open Letter to Don Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra" which was published in the Socialist daily paper "La Tierra" on April 17, 1946, and signed by NELA MARTINEZ, ESTER NUNEZ de CASTREJON, LUISA GOMEZ de la TORRE, JUDIT CEVALLOS, ISABEL SAAD, CLEOFANCIA SALAZAR and LAURA RODRIGUES, all Communist Party members, was in fact, written by the subject. The following is a translation of that letter:

"We Ecuadorian women who once raised your name as a flag of hope in the midst of national anguish, we who risked peace and life itself in order to break previous tyrannies and bring you to power -- thinking that you represented the spirit of moral and material reconstruction for our country -- we now come to tell you to listen to the cries of the Ecuadorian citizenry, to avoid civil war and economic chaos by resigning in time and voluntarily from the Presidency of the Republic. You have violated the responsibility of that position in breaking the constitution and the laws which rule the judicial and democratic life of the country. If what we have just enumerated is not yet sufficient to clarify your thinking in this matter: "You, sir, have ceased to be the Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador when you broke your constitutional oath and overrode the highest organisms of the state: The Tribunal of Guarantees and the Legislative Commission. You ceased to be the defender of the Ecuadorian people when you failed to recognize the inviolability of Ecuadorian homes, when you imprisoned and deported citizens without recourse to judicial procedure. You ceased to be the representative of Ecuadorian democracy when you prevented, by force, the free assembly and expression of the people. You have ceased to be the leader of youth which you have outraged, humiliated, ejected from the University, imprisoned and, offended in a manner which was never dared by the tyrants who preceded you. You ceased to be the defender of the people who tried to express to you their desire for order and constitutionality from the moment when the horses' hooves and the bayonets, at your order, broke the ranks of men with consciences. You are no longer the friend of the popular

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majority for you ordered bombs, bullets and sabers against the people who raised you to power in the hope that you would give them a chance to live a decent life. You are no longer the representative of a civilized nation after the outrages you perpetrated against the freedom of the press. You are not the chief executive of a democratic and cultured state. Broken presses, destroyed printing equipment and the marks of police brutality will be your monument. This monument to your memory, Doctor VELAZCO, is illuminated by the flame of the written word which burned in the streets of Quito, Light of America, on April 1, 1946, just as they burned on other dates in the streets of Berlin and Rome. Workers aware of our historical destiny have never been and will never be supporters of the dictatorship which you lead. The voice of protest of the independent political parties which have no ambitions for political advantage obtained from an unconstitutional regime have already let their voices be heard in this hour of treachery and persecutions. The behavior of the Ecuadorean people will be as firm at this time as on any of the occasions when it has risen to defend its honor as a sovereign nation and its rights as a free and civilized country. You have run into the ground your statement that before you relinquish power the Ecuadorean people will have to express its complete repudiation of you. If what we have just enumerated is not yet sufficient to clarify your thinking in this matter why then do you prevent by force of arms the free assembly of various civic groups in manifestations which have been dispersed by your officials? What interests can be blinding you so that so soon you forget the promises you made as Chief Executive and your honor as a man?

"The children and the widows of those killed on the 28th of May 1944 are still living. We still sorrow for and are deeply moved by the heroic action of our people which you certainly did not deserve. Do not increase the phantoms which will torture your future life, if indeed you still have a conscience. This people which produced 'a new type of revolution', according to your words, this 'intuitive people' will again return the constitutional life of the country to its proper course and place power in the hands of those who are its legitimate representatives. So stop innocent blood from further stain-

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STATISTICAL SECTION  
TITLE: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]  
DATE: [illegible]

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ing your name and withdraw before it is too late from the political stage which you have neither been able to enhance nor honor. Do not increase the number of orphans and widows who will curse your memory. We beg of you, withdraw in deference to the memory of all those who have fallen in all our struggles for democracy, for liberty which is now so limited, and for civil peace which has been interrupted by your uncelled for and ill-omened dictatorship."

Source D advised that due to the fact that her name appeared as one of the signatories of the above letter MARIA LUISA GOMEZ de la TORRE was ordered to be dismissed from her post as teacher in the Colegio Mejia in Quito. However, with the aid of the rector of that institution she still holds her position.

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

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

Reading Panel  
Military Intelligence Service

*[Handwritten signature]*

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