

DIRECTOR



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

July 26, 1946

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FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NUMBER _____

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS
JUL 28 1946
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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

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

DIVISION OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION
JUL 26 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DISTRIBUTION OFFICE
SEP 11 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereto a communication which may be of interest to you.

DCR ARA Unit
Anal. *mf*
Rev. *gr*
Dist. *CP*

VISA DIVISION
SEP 12 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Evaluation:

- Received from reliable and confidential source
- From confidential source previously found reliable
- Not verified by investigation

Available to Embassy in country of origin

Attachment *✓*

822.00B/7-2646

CS/V

SEP 18 1946
FILMED
822.00B/7-2646

June 26, 1946

RE: NELA MARTINEZ (ESPINOSA), with aliases
ECUADOR

SYNOPSIS: Subject addressed CTE (Confederacion de Trabajadores del Ecuador: Ecuadorean Confederation of Workers) celebration of May Day as official representative of the PCE (Partido Comunista del Ecuador: Communist Party of Ecuador). On June 2 subject took part in meeting in honor of MARIA LUISA GOMEZ DE LA TORRE, recently discharged by government for Communist activities. June 3 subject arrested when police disbanded PCE organized street demonstration; immediately released. Subject still unemployed and residing with MARIA LUISA GOMEZ DE LA TORRE.

DETAILS:

According to reliable Source C, NELA MARTINEZ was the official representative of the PCE at the May Day celebration held on the night of May 1 in Quito by the CTE. The speech delivered in the name of CTE President, Communist PEDRO ANTONIO SAAD, was delivered by PRIMITIVO BARRETO, also a member of the PCE. In SAAD'S speech the fact that the leftist movement in Ecuador must be made up wholly by workers was clearly set forth. In the course of the subject's speech she directly opposed SAAD'S viewpoint, stating that the Communist Party and leftist parties in general cannot be based wholly on workers in view of the fact that that class does not yet exist to a large enough extent in this country to support a strong movement. According to MARTINEZ, party and workers' movements must be organized on a broad base, including Indians, artisans, progressive citizens in general, and must especially seek cooperation of progressive-minded industrialists. According to the subject, Ecuador is not yet sufficiently industrialized to proceed in any other manner.

It should be noted that in expressing her viewpoint the subject was in opposition to PEDRO SAAD and in support of the PCE Secretary General, RICARDO PARADES. Subsequent to the above meeting, the subject spoke personally with Source C, stating that in her opinion the party should not hope to take any decisive action against the government at that time but keep in mind possible moves to be made in September or October. She further considered the possibility of a "reasonable dictatorship" led by the Liberal Radical Party which would be supported by the PCE at least for a limited time. The subject further advocated a union of the Communist and Socialist parties as one of the PCE's best chances to remove itself from its present state of illegality. The subject stated that she is working toward a public manifestation of women in protesting against the government, similar to the women's manifestation which had recently taken place in Lima.

MARTINEZ noted that the government has shown reluctance in arresting feminine opposition, and so the PCE plans to use women as much as possible. On May 5, 1946, the Quito daily EL DIA published the following article:

"Yesterday afternoon several ladies who sympathize with leftist ideals sponsored a tea at the Savoy Hotel in honor of MARIA LUISA GOMEZ DE LA TORRE as evidence of their adhesion and sympathy for her having been suddenly removed from the teaching position which Miss Gomez had held for a number of years in the Instituto Nacional Mejia. During this function Mrs. SAAD spoke in the name

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of Guayaquil women, MRS. ESTER DE CASTREJON spoke in the name of school teachers, MISS CLEMENCIA SALAZAR for the feminine alliance, MRS. LUCRECIA DE LOPEZ for working class women and MISS NELA MARTINEZ in the name of the Universidad Nacional. (It should be noted that in an item of the same date, EL COMERCIO stated that the subject spoke of the juridical and constitutional advances made recently by Ecuadoran women.) Also, in the course of this meeting there was suggested the formation of an 'Ecuadoran committee for the defense of the rights of men.' The organizing committee for this organization included NELA MARTINEZ, CLEMENCIA SALAZAR, DR. MARIA ANTONIETA SILVA, MRS. CHAVEZ, MRS. BARAVOMALO and MRS. CASTREJON."

According to Source D, NELA MARTINEZ was one of the organizers of a manifestation which took place in downtown Quito on the night of June 3, 1946. This manifestation, which had as its pretext the death of a student on the preceding day in the city of Loja, Ecuador, attempted to construe this event as a further deliberate attack of the VELASCO government on students as a class and was conducted as a protest against the government. Source C advised that when the manifestation was broken up by the police, NELA MARTINEZ took refuge in a nearby drugstore and was there arrested. She was taken to the office of the Minister of Government, where she was interrogated by the Intendente of Police and released after approximately one hour. Source C further advised that NELA MARTINEZ remains unemployed with little likelihood of obtaining a job, in view of her well-known Communist activities. According to this source, the subject has stated that she hopes to leave Quito to reside with her mother in the Province of Azuay until matters become more propitious in Quito for members of the PCE. At present the subject is residing in the home of MARIA LUISA GOMEZ DE LA TORRE.

Information is attached hereto of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Received from reliable and confidential source
From confidential source
Previously found reliable
Not verified by investigation

Available to Embassy in
Country of origin