JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

Date: May 27, 1944

To: Honorable Adolph A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Ecuadorian Government Fears Revolt Prior to National Election, June 2 and 3, 1944

As of possible interest to you, information has been received from
reliable sources in Ecuador wherein it is reported that the Ecuadorian Government
has shown great concern over the tense political situation which is developing
as the national election to be held on June 2 and 3, 1944, approaches. It is
stated that political unrest and the recurring demonstrations in opposition to
the incumbent government and the government's candidate for the presidency,
Miguel Angel Albornoz, have resulted in minor street disturbances in which four
citizens have been killed and others have been wounded. Unconfirmed reports
indicate a plan is being formulated whereby a general strike will take place among
the working class in Ecuador in the event the government does not allow partici-
pation by the working people in an honest election.

A cabinet meeting was held by President Arroyo on May 21 and again
on May 22, 1944, for the purpose of discussing future action by the government.
It was reliably stated that all individuals at these meetings agreed that the
government could not maintain order at the time of or following the election,
and it was believed that there would, therefore, necessarily be extensive bloodshed.
Also in attendance at the cabinet meetings were Colonel Hector Salgado, Chief of
the Ecuadorian Carabineros, and a few high-ranking Army officers. As a result of
these meetings, it was unanimously agreed that a triumvirate should be formed
which would assume dictatorial power prior to the election. Members of the
triumvirate were to include a Carabinero official, an Army official, and a civilian.
The identity of the civilian representative has not been ascertained. However, it
is stated that Colonel Hector Salgado was agreed upon as the Carabinero representative
and General Romero of the Army has been mentioned but not accepted as the military
representative. Previous information has indicated that President Arroyo desired
to leave Ecuador following the national election inasmuch as he feared for his life.
It is now reported that President Arroyo will replace Colonel Eloy Alfaro as the
Ecuadorian Ambassador to the United States. However, this information has not
been confirmed.

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

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence  cc - Assistant Chief of Staff
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.  G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney