

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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Date:

May 27 1944

To:

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
MAY 29 1944
MR. BERLE

(JON) FC
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From:

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Ecuadoran 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 Ecuadoran 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 reoccurring demonstrations in opposition to the incumbent government and the government's candidate for the presidency, Miguel Angel Albornos, 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 participation 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 Ecuadoran 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 Colon Eloy Alfaro as the Ecuadoran 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.

MAY 29 1944
[Signature]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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