

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
HUMB  
HUMAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
MAY 23 1944  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORD  
JUN 19 1944  
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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: May 18 1944  
To: Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of State

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

Subject: Communist Activities in Ecuador

DIVISION OF  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS  
JUN 2 1944  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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As of possible interest to you there is attached hereto a report received from a reliable and confidential source containing a summary of the recent general activities of the Communist Party in Ecuador.

This information has been made available to the American Embassy, the Military Attache and the Naval Attache in Quito, Ecuador.

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence  
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

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

Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney

Enclosure



DIV. OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION  
MAY 19 1944  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AUG 7 1944  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
File

Confidential File

100-10013/81

Communist Activities in Ecuador - General  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

According to local newspaper accounts the Ecuadorian Government changed their first decision and granted PEDRO ANTONIO SAAD, Coastal Secretary of the Communist Party, a passport to enable him to attend the emergency congress of the leaders of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America in Montevideo, Uruguay on February 25, 1944. However, SAAD was informed by the Argentine Consul in Guayaquil that the Argentine Government had sent out instructions to deny visas to the delegates to the Montevideo Congress.

Reliable Source A stated that the local communist had no representative at the Congress but eagerly awaited word of the results. This word was brought to them by GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ, Colombian delegate, who passed through Guayaquil March 12, 1944 enroute to his home. His mission was to report to the local group on the open and confidential business of the Congress. He furnished them the following information which is considered strictly confidential.

1. The headquarters of VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO in Mexico had sent a Mexican professor to Bolivia to investigate the recent political events there so that he could report to the Congress on this subject. The information which the professor gathered was not sufficient, and so the Congress, contrary to previous announcements, had to refrain from reporting detailedly on Bolivia.

2. Representatives from Argentina presented to the Congress proof to the effect that the military clique in Argentina is preparing for war against Brazil and that the democratic spirit and activity in Argentina are by all means repressed by the dictator governments.

3. That the American Federation of Labor in the United States is a strong opposing factor to Pan American labor unity. They are trying to cause trouble to the Confederation of Workers of Latin America with a view to weaken the Confederation's political position.

4. That it has been learned through well informed contacts in the United States that an anti-democratic group of imperialists is gaining influence in the United States Government, and that this group has among other activities made it its business to exercise secret control over the labor movement in Latin America with the assistance of the United States secret service personnel stationed in Latin America countries. Furthermore, the American secret service are in close contact with the secret police of imperialist Latin American governments and for these reasons the Confederation

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of Workers of Latin America must counteract the labor of the United States secret service. With this aim in view, they must prepare a list in each country of the members of the American secret service.

In connection with the latter point, the Confederation believes that the American authorities in contact with Latin American government authorities will cause difficulties to priority applications for flying of those delegates who intend to take part at the World Labor Congress to be held at London in June, 1944. For this reason it was suggested that the delegates in each country should take up the matter immediately with their respective governments and also with the highest United States Government Official in the country.

When PEDRO SAAD was designated delegate to the Congress to be held in London, he was informed by VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO that half of the expenses of his trip would be supplied by TOLEDANO'S headquarters, whereas the other half should be provided by local funds. SAAD since learned that at the Montevideo Congress it was decided that each country sending delegates to London should make an effort towards paying the entire expenses of these delegates. Complying with this request, the local labor unions immediately stated collecting funds. After several days they had collected 35,000 sucres of the estimated 50,000 necessary.

One of the immediate aims of the unions is to accumulate funds to enable them to go on strike whenever considered practicable. At the present time the funds available are believed to be sufficient for a ten day general strike. The union of Ancon is reported to possess a strike fund of 100,000 sucres. Its membership amounts to about 1,000. The funds of the other unions are more or less relative to those of the Ancon union. Communist headquarters in Guayaquil report that labor is already sufficiently strong to finance strikes of individual unions indefinitely. However, general strikes, including all organized labor, shall not be contemplated unless the guarantee exists that funds will be sufficient for a strike of from two to three weeks duration.

When it is realized that two or three years ago labor in Ecuador possessed no strike funds at all, it becomes evident that much progress has been made along these lines. In labor circles it is claimed that the progress is due mainly to better organization and as a result of following instructions which are received periodically from LOMBARDO TOLEDANO.

The Communists are at the present time trying to obtain control of the Federacion de Obreros Textiles, which was formed at an assembly of textile workers in Quito a few days ago. The membership of the Federacion is said to amount to about 14,000. This includes workers of the entire interior textile industries with the exception of those in the city of Cuenca. There was formerly

a Quito syndicate of textile workers which was reported to have been favorable to the President but which now incorporated in the federation is no longer sympathetic with the President. SAAD stated that he intends to travel to Quito the later part of March of 1944 and among other business plans to promote communism within the new Textile Federacion. He said that the Quito Communist leaders lack knowledge, activity, and reliability.

In regard to the coming presidential election, the communist-labor view point is said to be as follows:

1. We support the candidacy of Dr. JOSE VELASCO (IBARRA) mainly because our backing of his candidacy is our only possible legal expression, as far as elections are concerned, of opposition to the present government.
2. We had to take recourse to his candidacy for lack of another candidate who, better than VELASCO, might represent our interests.
3. Present existing internal and external economic and political situations do not seem to encourage the appointment of a candidate of our own.
4. Little good, if any, can be expected by us as the result of the presidential election even in the case that VELASCO should be elected.
5. Therefore, we are not at all anxious to join pro-VELASCO revolutionary movements of doubtful results as we know beforehand that even in case of success our share of benefits would only be small.
6. Our main interest is to concentrate on organization. Our aim is to organize all labor under communist leadership. Once that job is completed, our participation in politics shall be more active. Time and international happenings work in favor of us. The future belongs to labor and there are other factors of much more far reaching significance to labor than the presidential election.

SAAD has informed that neither the local communist nor the labor organizations intend to send delegates to the International Workers Conference in Philadelphia on April 20, 1944. However, the local newspapers have carried articles regarding the program of this conference.

According to rumors among the communists, plans are being prepared for the formation of a Union of Latin American Communists. This new organization is reported to be directly backed by Russian contact officials and it is believed that SAAD will be given an

executive position.

Source A further advised that LUIS MARTINEZ (ARGUELO) is a member of the Communist Party in Guayaquil. He is said to be a Captain in either the army or carabineros and is used as the contact man between the Communist Party and the Ecuadorian Police.

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... have to you, there is...  
... been received relative to...  
... Communist Party

... close relations with the...  
... in 1941, appointed...  
... Confederacion de Trabajadores...

... 1943 Saad joined the...  
... government and actively...  
... Velasco Ibarra. Following...  
... Communist Party under Saad...  
... President Velasco Ibarra...  
... have refused a cabinet post...  
... representing labor in the...

... information has been received from a confidential and reliable...  
... made available to the American Embassy at Quito, Ecuador.

Local Intelligence

Chief of Staff, W-2

