

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: November 2, 1945

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

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

Subject: Nela Martinez Espinosa
Ecuador - Communist Activities

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
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NOV 29 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Please refer to the communication from this Bureau dated May 30, 1945, concerning the captioned individual, a native of Ecuador, who has been head of the Feminine Section of the Ecuadoran Communist Party and has been active in labor and political affairs in Ecuador.

As of possible further interest, there is enclosed a copy of a memorandum submitted by a reliable confidential source indicating that Nela Martinez continues to be active in the Central Committee of the Ecuadoran Communist Party and recently conducted a course in domestic economy at Manabi, Ecuador, on behalf of the Ecuadoran Ministry of Economy by which she is presently employed.

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

Enclosure

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

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

Attention: Reading Panel
Military Intelligence Service

DIVISION OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION
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Enclosed is advised that the subject, a young writer who has been mentioned from the United States since 1938, exhibiting his crippled condition, and employing violent language in his articles, has been considered a member of himself since the start of his career. He passed as a revolutionary

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September 26, 1945

and at the time of his marriage to the subject he was
with Ecuadorian Communists. According to Source B their marriage lasted a
very short time. On August 14, 1945, the subject was transferred to her new
post in the office of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Economy. It was noted that she had
been married to JOAQUIN GALLEGOS (LARA) at the time of her registration March
19, 1936.

RE: NELA MARTINEZ (ESPINOSA), with aliases
Nella Martinez, Nela Martinez -
Ecuador

The subject, who previously worked in the Quinine Section of the
Corporacion Ecuatoriana de Fomento, has been transferred to the Oficina de
Orientacion y Credito, an office of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Economy.

Source B advised that while working for the Corporacion Ecuatoriana
de Fomento, the subject was working with an American citizen, one ANGEL
SANDOVAL. Source B stated that SANDOVAL was reported to have considered
facilitating a visit on the part of the subject to the United States. However
SANDOVAL departed Quito, Ecuador, for Washington, D. C., on August 14, 1945,
at approximately which time the subject was transferred to her new position.
No further reports have been received regarding any intentions of the subject
to leave Ecuador.

In view of the fact that subject is a qualified instructor in matters
of domestic science, she was sent by the Ministry of Economy to Manabi, Ecuador,
for the purpose of conducting a four-month course of instruction. Source C
advised that NELA MARTINEZ is scheduled to return to Quito during December, 1945.

Source D advised that in connection with NELA MARTINEZ'S work with
the Partido Comunista del Ecuador the subject attended meetings of the Central
Committee in Quito regularly up until the time of her departure for Manabi.
The subject was one of the secretaries present at the meeting of August 20,
1945. In the course of that meeting the letter from the Communist Party to the
Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Relations demanding United States release of
military bases in Ecuador was discussed. The subject took part in this
discussion and expressed herself as wholly in accord with all items in the
document. Although the activity of Communist cells in Quito has been on the
decline, the subject has managed to maintain one active women's cell in this
area. This cell is known as La Pasionaria, the secretary of which is one
LUISA A. GOMEZ DE LA TORRE.

According to the official register of Ecuadorian citizens the subject
was married to JOAQUIN GALLEGOS (LARA) at the time of her registration March
19, 1936.

Source B advised that GALLEGOS (LARA) is a young writer who has been
paralyzed from the waist down since birth. Exploiting his crippled condition,
and employing violent language in his articles he has drawn considerable
attention to himself since the outset of his career. He poses as a revolutionist

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and at the time of his marriage to the subject he was closely associated with Ecuadoran Communists. According to Source E their marriage lasted a very short time. On August 24, 1942, when additional information was set forth on the official government registration of the subject, the notation was made that she had been divorced from GALLEGOS (LARA).

According to Source C the subject takes pride in the fact that the father of her two children is DR. RICARDO A. PAREDES (ROMERO), at present Secretary General of the PCB.

The following description of the subject was obtained from the official Ecuadoran Register of Citizens:

Name	NEILA MARTINEZ (ESPINOSA)
Nationality	Ecuadoran
Birthdate	11/1914 (Subject placed "unknown" in space for day of month)
Birthplace	Canar, Ecuador
Height	5'
Build	Medium
Complexion	Light
Hair	Dark Brown
Eyes	Dark Brown
Father	CESAR MARTINEZ
Mother	ENRIQUETA ESPINOSA
Occupation	Employee, Ministry of Economy
Marital Status	Divorced wife of JOAQUIN GALLEGOS (LARA)
Education	Secondary, with some additional courses in domestic science

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