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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY	Ecuador	DATE DISTR.	15 December 1948
SUBJECT	Purchase of Czech Arms by Ecuadoran Army Officers	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	25X1A6a [redacted]	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF IN[redacted]	25X1X6	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	25X1A2g [redacted]

[redacted]

1. Additional information received on the purchase of Czech arms by the Ecuadoran Ministry of National Defense reveals that this was a private, rather than an official, transaction. Robert Bartus, Quito representative for the Strakonice Arms Works of Czechoslovakia, arranged the deal in January 1948 with a group of Ecuadoran Army officers, headed by Lt. Colonel Octavio Hinostroza, Chief of Ordnance. The purchase was for 1,000 Czech automatic pistols, caliber 7.65, which were to be sold to various Army officers at 400 sucres apiece. The actual cost for each pistol was 349 sucres. The difference was pocketed by the officers handling the transaction, primarily Hinostroza. Since there are not more than 750 officers on active duty in the Ecuadoran Army, many of these pistols were sold to civilian friends of the officers.

2. It was also learned that any future shipments from the Czech Government will be made through the port of Gdynia, Poland. This, it is hoped, will eliminate any chance of confiscation such as was experienced with the first shipment of these pistols.

25X1A6a [redacted] Comment. A similar transaction is presently believed to be in process within the Ministry for the purchase of over a thousand .22 caliber rifles, with the trademark "Mossberg", from the United States. These rifles are ostensibly for training purposes, but actually will be sold for personal use. More information on this will be forwarded when acquired.)

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