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INFORMATION REPORT

GD NO

COUNTRY Argentina

DATE DISTR 14 NOV 49

SUBJECT Samuel E. Gradin, Nationalist Party Leader

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A

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1. Samuel E. Gradin, an official of the Central Bank of Argentina who was previously reported to be the power behind the Nationalist Party in Argentina,* maintains close relations with groups of Argentine army officers who are considered to be members of the Nationalist Party. Among his closest acquaintances are General Franklin Lucero, now Argentine Minister of Army, and General Juan Filomeno Velazco. He is also reported to be friendly with Victor Paz Estenssoro, the exiled Bolivian MNR leader who is now in Uruguay.

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2. Because Gradin has only a very limited knowledge of banking and economics, [redacted] he may have been placed in the Central Bank of Argentina as a contact for Argentine army intelligence.

3. Gradin is a lawyer and has held various positions in the Argentine government, mainly as a minor official. He is said to be shrewd, intelligent and a good organizer. During World War II, he was reported to be a member of a Nazi-front organization, Amigos de Alemania (Friends of Germany). During the regime of President Castillo, he reportedly worked closely with Homero Mario Guglielmini, the University professor who launched the "Pro-neutrality move" in Argentina soon after the United States entered World War II.

4. Approximately one month ago, Gradin had an interview with President Peron during which Gradin was asked why the Nationalist Party was not campaigning more actively "on the street" for the present administration. As a result of this interview, [redacted] the Nationalists have now assumed a more active role in attacking Peron's opposition and are becoming increasingly successful in obtaining key positions in the Federal Police department, the Army, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Sub-Secretariat of Press and Propaganda.**

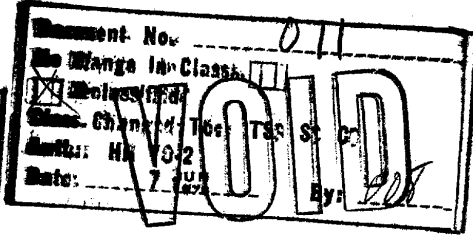
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