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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

*744  
804*

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR 10 APR 51

SUBJECT Communist Attitude Concerning the Asociacion de Investigaciones Anti-Comunistas

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

DATE OF  
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. At a session of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE), in Quito, on the night of Tuesday, 16 January 1951, there was a discussion as to whether it would be practicable at that time to engage in some action against the activities of the Asociacion de Investigaciones Anti-Comunistas Pro-Naciones Unidas.\* No decision was reached, since the meeting was informal and attended by only a few members. The matter is to be discussed when members of the Central Committee are present.
2. At this meeting several plans of action against the Asociacion were mentioned: one suggestion was to disrupt showings of USIE films at Asociacion meetings; another was to stone the meeting place; a suggestion to sack the Asociacion's headquarters was raised but not supported by the majority present.
3. Cesar Endara, a member of the Central Committee, has stated that he and other Central Committee members feel that no drastic action should be taken against the Asociacion at this time, because Communist-provoked public scandals might be detrimental to gaining the collaboration of the Movimiento Civico Democratico Nacional (MCDN), which the PCE desires in the coming presidential elections. Endara mentioned it might be possible for the Communists to provoke a scandal without committing themselves personally.
4. Announcements by Guayaquil newspapers that a Comité de Investigaciones Comunistas had been organized in Quito under the leadership of Ernesto Espinoza del Canno\*\* evoked comments by two members of the Communist Party in Guayaquil. Jorge Salvatierra Saavedra, a teacher at the Borja Lavayen School and a university law student, and Victor Rodriguez Roditti, also a university law student who teaches at the Borja Lavayen School and is a radio announcer for El Telegrafo, both stated that they believed that this Comité is connected with the U.S. secret service and will spread propaganda against Russia and in favor of the United Nations. They said that the Comité has induced two retired Ecuadoran Army officers, Col. Joaquin Samaniego and one Col. Batallas, to organize a force of one thousand retired military men in Ecuador to fight in Korea or in any other part of the world against Russia. They further stated that Espinoza will find it more difficult to organize a Comité in Guayaquil, where there is a more liberal spirit and the influence of the church is not so great. Salvatierra and Rodriguez believed that the Comité had been formed in preparation for the meeting of Latin American foreign ministers in March.

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Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	26/6/78
By:	029

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**Comment.** According to press reports, Ernesto Espinoza del Campo is the leader of the Asociacion, which has its headquarters at Plaza Victoria No. 1071, Quito. Membership cards requiring the member's photo, name, address, nationality, civil status, occupation, and age, and the President's and Secretary's signatures have been issued. The cooperation of the members with the authorities is requested in a note at the bottom of the card. Other sources have reported that Jose Palacios Moreno, a chauffeur and sympathizer of the Communist Party, was used by the Asociacion to obtain members for the organization. Palacios has informed the Party in detail of the activities of the organization. (B-3)

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**Comment.** It was reported in 1943 that Espinoza was a member of a highly secret police organization under President Arroyo del Rio.

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