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~~SECRET~~ RYBAT
CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief of Station, Lincoln

DATE MAR 4 1954

FROM Chief, WH

SUBJECT { GENERAL Operational
SPECIFIC Communist Efforts to Disrupt Caracas Conference

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum provided to this office
by ODACID.

[
OLIVER G. CALBORN
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Enc.: 1

3 March 1954

Distribution:
3-Lincoln

MAR 9 1954

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COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DISRUPT CARACAS CONFERENCE

A reliable source reports that a Venezuelan exile in Guatemala is returning to Venezuela prior to the Caracas Conference and may be implicated in plans to disrupt that conference. He is Adán ~~Perez~~ Quirós, born in Cucuta, Colombia (on the Venezuelan border), 28 years old, son of a Venezuelan father and a Colombian mother. He is a member of the Acción Democratica Party and was expelled from Venezuela four years ago, and has resided during this period in Guatemala. He is a radio announcer by profession. He has purchased air passage from Guatemala to Barranquilla, and has obtained permission from the Government of Colombia to enter that country. He expects to be accompanied by his fiancée (name unknown), who is coming from Mexico. He has stated to friends that he will travel by way of San José, Costa Rica, in order to consult with leaders of the Acción Democratica residing there, headed by Rosulo Betancourt. He has also said that he expects there will be disturbances in Venezuela during the time of the Tenth Inter-American Conference.

Source believes that Adán Perez Quirós is capable of directing riots or uprisings against the Venezuelan Government and that his professional training in radio may be utilized by Acción Democratica in connection with such uprising.

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COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DISRUPT CARACAS CONFERENCE

Information received from a reliable source, on February 12, 1954, refers to the possibility that a Colombian Communist may be active in Communist preparations to disrupt the Tenth Inter-American Conference scheduled to commence in Caracas, Venezuela March 1, 1954.

The individual referred to is Dr. Bernardo Garcia Zapata, described as one of the most important members of the Communist Party of Colombia. He is a lawyer by profession but has resided for more than a year in Guatemala City, although he can return to Colombia without hindrance from that Government. He was born in Cali, Colombia, May 9, 1923 and carries Colombian passport No. 780004, issued by the State Government of Antioquia; he is described as 1 meter, 67 centimeters in height, black hair, dark eyes, straight nose, medium mouth, prominent jaw, medium tan complexion. His facial expression is marked by a penetrating glance, serious and concentrated demeanor. He is very guarded in conversation, and notably different from other Latins in the impression he gives of avoiding talk. He is married, his wife being Ligia Garcia, born in Armenia (Caldas), Colombia, April 18, 1925; she is also a Communist and is well educated, holding degrees in educational science for the subjects of chemistry and biology.

He has written articles for the Guatemalan Government's official paper Diario de Centro America, and the Government-supported daily, Nuestro Diario, both of which are Communist oriented. His articles are written under a pseudonym, and relate to political topics. He lives well, apparently beyond any income which would normally be received from occasional newspaper articles. Dr. Garcia Zapata was a delegate to the Congress of Latin American Lawyers, a Communist front organization, held in Guatemala City in November 1953. He was the principal Colombian in attendance, others being individuals unknown either as lawyers or Colombians to the diplomatic mission of that country; they did not appear at that mission and information concerning them officially requested from the Civil Guard was refused. After the Congress in Guatemala City, Dr. Garcia Zapata was one of the delegates sent by the Government of Guatemala to the World Congress of Democratic Lawyers, held in Vienna, under international Communist sponsorship. Dr. Garcia Zapata personally picked up at the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Guatemala the tickets, passports and special grant of funds for the trip, along with his exit visa. He had sought to take his wife with him but this was firmly refused despite his persistent efforts, and the refusal was interpreted as a Communist technique to keep his wife as a hostage in territory where the Communists have influence, Guatemala, in case he should not decide to return from Vienna as a Communist agent.

Dr. Garcia Zapata

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- 2 -

Dr. Garcia Zapata has now returned to Guatemala City and expects to attend the Tenth Inter-American Conference at Caracas as an "observer." He plans to return to Colombia first. It would be easy for him to enter Venezuela from Colombia without documentation or, if necessary, with false documentation to be supplied by the Communists.

Source states that Garcia Zapata is the type of cool intellectual, determined and dedicated, who serve Communism on difficult missions. Source believes that Garcia Zapata would be capable of directing any criminal actions which might disrupt the Caracas Conference such as assassination, riot or uprising, and that he received instructions and training in Vienna for this purpose.

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