Basque Intelligence Service Section 2

CARACAS, VENEZUEL Rebruary 16, 194
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Basquer Organization in Venezue Dear Sir? Jylo 8 Dear Sir? Jylo 8 Reference is made to this office's letter to the Directo dated November 5, 1943, in the above entitled matter. Reference is also made to the Bureau's cables Nos. 162 and 211, dated November 16, 1943 and January 19, 1944, respectively, giving authorization for expenditures necessary for arrangements currentl being made for greater utilization of the Basque Organization in Venezuela. We have the following to report in regard to those arrangements. Included with this letter as an enclosure are two copies of an undated and unsigned memorandum entitled "Setting up the System". This memorandum was furnished to our Basque Organization contact, Confidential Informant on January 15, 1944. With the exception of certain changes made subsequently, it is believed that the memorandum is self-explanatory in regard to organization of the Basques for nation-wide coverage. The steps outlined were taken by Informant letters being written in the Basque language. A Basque left Caracas in the latter part of January, 1944 to make the personal contacts called for by this memorandum. Upon his return to Caracas, a full-report on this phase of the wor will be submitted. RECORDED The changes referred to in the above paragraph Tollows: Contact with the Basque informant in Core will be made by correspondence rather than by personal contact applied Basque representative at Arague de Maturin has been dropped and a state of the contact applied and representative at Carenero added. This last is a port town on the Caribbean coast and is the one at which the trading books from the Island of Margarita call. Also, the representative for the two towns of San Cristobal and Rubio is the same individual Thus the final number of Basque informants distributed throughout Venezuela outside the capital city remains at fifteen. The only change further in this memorandum refers to the cost of the trip made by Basque representative to make personal contacts in setting up the system in Western Venezuela. As pointed out in cable numbe PR 5 4 1944 R2 15 NOV 2 1 Declaration on: OACH 62 APR 541944 R215 NOV 2 100.

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of this trip will be Bs 1,100 rather than Bs 500 as stated in the memor andum.

Also included as an enclosure of this cletter is a one page, undated and unsigned memorandum simply entitled "Memorandum" This refers to another phase of the use of the Basque Organization that of developing information regarding the Spanish boats which call at the Port of Puerto Cabello in Venezuela, enroute to and fr Spain. Arrangements have been made to establish contact with is is to be

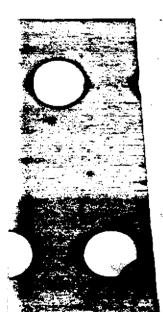
instructed regarding the type of information desired by Informant The enclosed memorandum was prepared for guidance in giving such instructions. An attempti will on made to establish a similar Basque confidential informant

When all arrangements with the Basque Organization in Venezuela, as outlined in this letter and accompanying enclosures, have been completed, a full and detailed report will be submitted.

Very truly yours,

Legal Attache

Enclosures (2)



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The following is in accordance with our recent achwersetion:

### SETTING UP THE SYSTE

By Maili

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEFEY E SHOWN

CTHERWISE Letters should be sent to your representati Maturia, Cumena, Aragua de Maturia, Tucupita, Porlamar and Cluded Boliver. Letters should state:

- (1) The general purpose and objects of the plan together with a request for scoperation in same.
- (2) That a report is desired the 15th and 50th of each month, starting February 1, 1944, regarding general conditions in representative's locality of a political social and economic nature; also, regarding movements and activities of Axis nationals and sympathizers in the area. Regarding reports, representative should be further advised that he will from time to time receive requests for information of specific individuals or activities.
- (5) That an answer is requested as to representative willingness to work with us, at which time additional instructions will be issued.

### Further Instructions by Mail

Upon receipt of a sommunication from the representatives enumerated in the first section of this memorandum stating their willingness to cooperate in the plan, a second letter should be sent to them covering the following points:

(1) Communications to Caracas should be written in the Besque language to such-and-such an address.

(2) Regarding specific requests for information on an individual, that the following represents the minimum information desired:

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Age, including date and place of birth. Description, including approximate height, weight, color of hair and eyes, build (such as stout, thin, etc.), any other scars, mark or characteristics which distinguish this individual from others.

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If a foreigner, date of arrival in Venezuela and details of subsequent trips outside country.

If a Venezuelan, whether has travelled to Germany or other European countries within past ten years.

Business activity or occupation of individual.

## Marital status

Details of any activities or sympathies in favor of the enemy.

(5) In regard to the last point stated under section (2), it should be strenuously pointed out that we are interested only in facts; that the representative should be particularly careful to avoid allowing his personal opinion to influence his reports.

(4) Stress the importance of the work which the representative is doing, the meed for discretion in developing information and the necessity of not disclosing that they are engaged in intelligence work.

#### By Personal Contact:

The following representatives should be contacted by a traveling friend who can outline orally to them the plan as set forth under the mail contact proposals. It is suggested that each representative be provided with a written list of the type of information desired in regard to individuals, as set forth previously in this memorandum. The individuals to be personally contacted are those at: La Guaira, Maracay, Valencia, Puerto Cabello, Trujillo, Merida, San Cristibal, Rubio.

#### At Coro and Maracaibo:

Your representatives in each of these sities should be contacted by mail in the same manner as those set forth in the first section of this memorandum. However, in his second letter he should be advised that GEORGE WASHINGTON of Maraciab will contact him in the near future, bearing a letter from you to him. At the same time, that letter should be furnished the writer for forwarding to Maracaibo.

#### Records Records:

It is presumed that the organization will keep files on each informant so that the status of his work at any moment may be readily determined and will use this information to

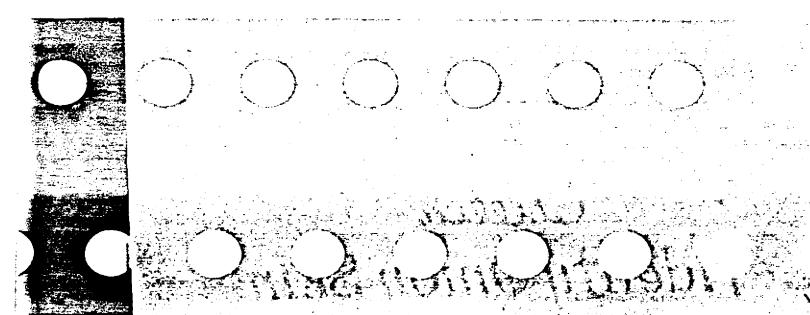
follow up instances where reports are not received in duties or representative's interest seems to wane.

#### Expenses:

The cost of the traveling representative's trip through western Venezuela to set up the plan in that area has been authorized at the rate originally proposed, i.e., not to exceed a 500, including a salary of a 50 per day for the person making the trip. It is requested that an itemized list of estimated monthly cost of the plan as developed in this memorandum be submitted for approval. This is not to include the proposed use of a fulltime worker at Maracaibo, same having been disapproved. It also will not include the cost of the Spanish boat plan, but it is requested that a separate estimate be submitted for the plan as it might operate in either La Guaira or Trinidad.

## Execution of Plan:

It is requested that immediate action be taken to place the plan as developed in this memorandum into effect.



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have seed the following memorandum reflects this type of information desired. While it is realized that it will not be possible to obtain details as complete as outlined below in all cases, the following will serve as a goal to work towards. The methods used to obtain this information will depend to a large extent upon the circumstances in each case and the ingenuity of the investigator. In general, however, it may be stated that the investigator will rely upon personal observation, discreet interrogation of persons aboard vessel and, where possible, examination of documents and personal

 Identity of suspected erew members and passengers; that is, those whose purpose in serving on the vessel or coming to South America is not clear and who may be acting as couriers, engaging in espionage activities or performing other services for the enemy.

(a) Complete physical description of subject.

b) Reasons for suspecting subject.

(c) Known contacts or associates of subject, both aboard ship and in ports at which vessel calls.

(d) Destination of subject.

effects of the subject of investigation.

(b) Any suspicious documents or other articles in possession of subject.

2. Unusual movements of ship or unusual activities of ships' officers.

5. Activities of Spanish secret police officers aboard ship. 4. Political, economic and social conditions in Spain.

5. Evidences of German espionage and other activities in Spain.

In regard to the information desired in regard to physical descriptions, the following suggestions are offered:

Nationality Passport carried 🛫 Height 👙 . Weight Color of eyes Color of hair Complexion

Build 🐃 Age (with date and place of birth) Marital status Occupation Other physical characteristics, such as mustache, glasses, manner walking, amputations, etc. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINMENERAL comments. HEREIN IS VIICLASSIFIED EXCEPT AVHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE EXCLOSURE 12-23/19-

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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New York, N. Y. March 4, 1944

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Director, FBI

Attention:

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RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS

Classified by Dockston

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated February 17, 1944, in the above captioned matter, instructing the New York office to have Jerome Doyle of the New York 818 office contact ANTONIO IRALA, Secretary to President JOSE ANTONIO AGRITRE of the Basque Government in exile, and to discuss with Mr. IRALA the subject matter of the Basque organization cooperating exclusively with Bureau representatives in South America.

Through the assistance of Special Agent William A. Costello, Mr. Doyle met Mr. IRALA on two occasions and entered into discussions with him relative to the above described subject matter. These meetings took place on February 24, 1944 and March 2, 1944. Both conferences consumed a great deal of time and every effort was made by Mr. Doyle to cover all possible subjects in which the Bureau might be interested.

In order to present the subject matter in the elearest manher possible, this letter will be broken down into various subject headings.

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New York, N. Y. March 4, 1944

Director, FBI

Mr. IRALA stated that President AGUIRRE and he were both firmly of the opinion that if the Bureau saw fit to deal with the Basque organization, that as soon as such an agreement -

The manner in which the Basques are willing to handle financial matters with the Bureau in Latin America will be set out at a subsequent point in this letter.

It is the desire of President AGUIRES and IRALA to confine the contacts of the Basques in the Western Hemisphere to Bureau contacts solely. Inasmich as the Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction outside the Western Howisphere

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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XXXXXX XXXXXXX Director, FBI JD

w York, N. Y. March 4, 1944

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BASQUES! RELATIONS WITH OFFICE OF MAYAL INTELLIGENCE

During the week of February 20, 1944, MANUEL de la SOTA was approached by an officer of the United States Navy in New York City connected with OMI which officer requested the Basques to have all Basque sailors arriving in the United States report to him so that he could interview them relative to maritime matters throughout the world. Mr. de la SOTA advised Mr. IRALA of this request of the Navy and the matter is presently under discussion in New York City between this office and the District Intelligence Office of ONI.

BASQUES' RELATIONS WITH THE BUREAU - AS SUGGESTED BY BASQUES

Mr. IRALA advised Mr. Doyle that it is his belief and President AGUIRRE's desire that all contact between Basques in the United States and in the Western Hemisphere be with representatives of the Bureau only. Mr. IRALA stated he believed that if this is acceptable to the Bureau, appropriate letters should be forwarded to the Basque representatives in each Latin American country instructing these representatives that they are to deal solely with the Bureau's representative in that particular country.()

Mr. IRALA suggested that if such a plan is accepted, it is the desire of the Basque Delegation that the Bureau's Legal Attaches maintain constant contact with the Basque agents to direct them along whatever lines are desired by the Bureau and instruct them wherever necessary in the types of information desired and in the methods of obtaining the information. Mr. IRALA understands the amount of money to be paid by the Bureau to any of the Basque representatives rests within the discretion of the Bureau's various representatives. Mr. Doyle has pointed out to Mr. IRALA the inadvisability of turning over a lump sum to President AGUIRRE for distribution throughout Latin America to Basque representatives. Mr. IRALA states that the Basques will be satisfied if the relationship between the Legal Attaches and the Basques is maintained as though the funds paid the various Basques emanated from President AGUIRRE in the United States. Mr. IRALA advised that under these circumstances, the Basques will perform far more ably as they would then be working for patriotic motives and not as paid agents of the United States Government. Mr. IRALA believes, however, that in many instances, sums of money should be paid Basque representatives or otherwise they might suffer economic hardship. N

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Director, FBI



Mr. IRALA states that the only real administrative difficulties he sould envision at this point might arise in Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Argentina. In the first three named countries, Mr. IRALA believed that it would assist the Bureau if a member of the Basque delegation went to each of these countries; picked out the best Basque representative there; gave him complete instructions as to dealing with the Bureau's representatives in order to insure efficient operation of the Basque information service in the three countries already mentioned. He states that in those three countries, the contradiction of orders from President AGUIRRE relative to what American intelligence agency the Basques should deal with have caused some confusion in the Basque ranks.

Insofar as Argentina is concerned, Mr. IRALA pointed out that
since 1959, Basques have been portion in favor of the Alliest

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pegan paying certain sums of money
each month for the maintenance of an undercover office for the Basques.

THE BASQUES AND COMMUNISM

Mr. IRALA outlined to Mr. Doyle the special interest the Basques have in combatting Communism. This is due in the main to the intense religion

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of the Basque citizen. Mr. IRALA outlined methods whereby the Basques could infiltrate into the various Communist organizations throughout Latin America. He stated that the Basques considered Mexico as the head of the Communist movement in Latin America; that Colombia will follow Mexico in importance in the near future and that Guba, Argentina and Chile are good territory for Communist activities. Mr. IRALA is of the opinion that this particular work would be handled with increasing enthusiasm by the Basques in Latin America.

The results of the work of the various Basque agents are of no interest to the Basque delegation in New York City other than the desire that they work efficiently and obtain good results. However, Nr. IRAMA has asked that from time to time, the delegation be advised generally concerning the activities with the Communists in Latin America. He states this is due to the fact that the efforts of the Communists to take over the Iberian Peninsula are opposed by the Basques who are the Communists most hated ensules in Spain.

Mr. IRALA stated that the special emphasis placed by the Basques relative to Communism does not preclude the Basque representatives in Latin America from assisting the Bureau's representatives on any other type of subversive activity wherever possible. He stated by way of illustration that in most of the Latin American countries where there are Spanish ministers, there are Basques who can obtain information from the offices of these Spanish ministers.

Mr. IRALA turned over to Jerome Doyle a list of the Basque representatives in the various Latin American countries. This list is being held in the New York SIS office pending the decision of the Bureau with respect to working with the Basques in Latin America. If the Bureau decides to enter into close cooperation with the Basques, Mr. IRALA will furnish Mr. Doyle with background information relative to each of these representatives.

The substance of conversations between Mr. Doyle and Mr. IRALA was outlined telephonically by Mr. Doyle to Supervisor at the Seat of Government.

Very truly yours,

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B. R. COMPOY

New York, N. Y. March 9, 1944

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Attention:

RASQUES - COVERAGE IN ARGENTINA

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Declaratily on: ONDA 5-18-8 Dear Sir:

Decizacity on: OADR

Supplementing the letter dated March 4, 1944 entitled RASQUE ORGANI-ZATION; LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS, Mr. Jerome Doyle discussed with ANTONIO IRALA, Secretary of the Basque Delegation, in detail the possibilities of the Basque Organisation in Argentina cooperating with the Bureau. These conversations took place on February 24, March 2, and March 4, 1944.

As me set out in the letter of reference, the Basques have been working on intelligence matters in Ergentina since 1939. For the past year, the Basque information service in Argentina has been under the direction of a Basque named DR. LASARTE. Mr. IRALA pointed out that the information , obtained by LASAME's organization for mas solely information concerning Spanish ships and members of these ships crews.

Mr. IRALA pointed out that no use was being made of the Basques in Argentina to obtain political, social, economic, or even general subversive activity information. He stated that with a moderate amount of direction the Bureau, working with DR. LASARTE, could very quickly build up a Basque information organization covering Uruguay, all parts of Argentina and Chile, which in addition, would furnish the Bureau with political information emanating from Bolivia. Mr. IRALA stated that followers of the Basque Republic are found in political religious and military circles in Buenos Ai RECORDED & INDEXED

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Director, FBI



New York, N. Y. March 9, 1944

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Mr. IRALA is firmly convinced that if the Bureau's representatives in Buenos Aires proceed to develop the Basques for political, economic and the other types of information, that within a reasonable period of time, DR. LASARTE will have cut down on his furnishing of information that and eventually will deal only with the Bureau's representatives.

The foregoing has been made a matter of a separate letter to the Bureau inasmuch as it is the most difficult problem existing in any general agreement the Bureau might reach with the Basque Delegation. It is likewise believed that this background information would be of invaluable assistance to the office of the Legal Attache at Buenos Aires, Argentina so that it may be properly advised in any future dealings it might have with either or the Basques.

Very truly yours

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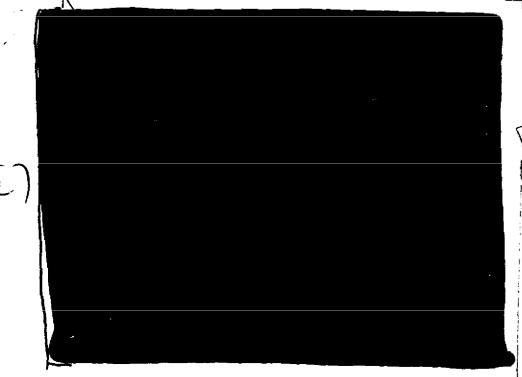


CC-287 JOHN EDGAR HOOVER CONFIDENTIAT Mr. Tolson DIRECTOR A. Tamm Mr. Clegg Vederal Bureau of Investigation Mr. Coffey\_ Mr. Glavin Anited States Department of Justice . Ladd LENIAL Nichola Washington, B. C. Mr. Rosen March 14, 1944 Classified by QQ Declassify on: OA Mr. Carson\_ Mr. Harbo\_ MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD Mr. Hendon Intelligence 2 67460Mr. Mumford Basque Organisation Mr. Starke Latin American Matters Mr. Quinn Tamm\_ BACKGROUND Tele. Room You will recall that Antonio Itala, Secretary to the Preside Beatme Basque Government in evila income and Antonio Beatm dent of the Basque Government in exile, informed an Agent of the New York Office that the Basques were strongly desirous of working Miss Gandy solely with the Bureau in the Western Hemisphere. Special Agent Jerome Doyle was instructed to interview Irala in order to explore the possibility of the full utilisation of the Basque representatives in Letin America as informante for the Bureau. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINE HEREIN IS UNIXASSIFIED DETAILS EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE Doyle interviewed Irals at length and obtained the information which is set out below: Q Irala explained that when President Aguirre of the Basques came to the United States he was accompanied by Manuel della Prote ALL INGUMENTION CONTAIN HERETH IS UNCLASSIVED EXCEPT WHERE SHOUL DTHERWISE MAY 10 1944 RYICTORY BUY COPIES DESTROYED R 2 15 NOV 3 1961 CONFIDENTIAL

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instructions created a great deal of confusion among the Basque circles in Latin America, because the Basques do not understand the American intelligence set-up, according to Irala. Irala claimed that little effort had been made by the New You Office of the Basques to clear up the situation because it was considered that the would be indiscreet.

Irala stated that the present situation as known to him in Latin Americ is as follows:



Panama: No contacts with American authorities.

Other countries: No Basque information service organized as yet.

Irals stated that immediate steps can be taken in all the countries with the possible exception of Argentina, to maintain contacts exclusively with the Bureau's Legal Attache. He stated further that it is the desire of President Aguirre to confine the contacts of the Basques in the Wastern Hemisphere to the Bureau.

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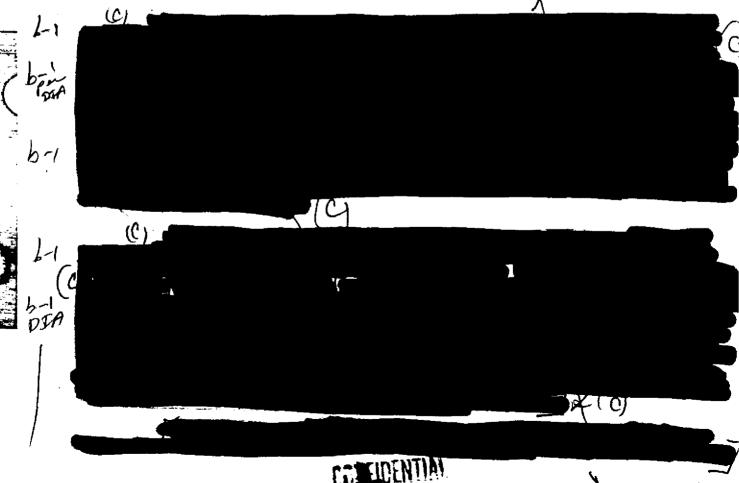
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Irala pointed out that they would of course desire that the Bureau forward a few administrative messages for the Basques

He stated that it would be satisfactory for the Bureau's representative to make arrangements locally with the Busque organizations for finances.

Irals claimed that the Basques should be told that the money is coming from President Aguirre, inasmuch as the Basques are extremely patriotic and proud, and will work better if they do not feel that they are paid agents of the United States Government, but are working for the Basque Nationalist Government. He stated that if such a plan is acceptable to the Bureau, letters would be forwarded to each of the Basques in each of the countries mentioned, instructing them they they are to deal solely with the Bureau's representative in that particular country.

In connection with putting this scheme into effect, Irala stated that the only real administrative difficulties he could foresee might arise in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, and Argentina. He stated that it would be wise in view of previous conflicting instructions by President Aguirre, and in view of the confusion as to the United States Government intelligence agencies in the minds of the Basques in Latin America, that if a member of the Basque delegration proceeded to Mexico, Chile, and Colombia and gave complete instructions to the Basque delegates in these countries, it would insure efficient operation of the Basque information service there. He suggested that a representative from the Basque service in Venezuela, where Bureau and Basque collaboration has been unusually successful would be the best person to proceed to these countries.



Irala pointed out that it would be necessary for the Legal Attaches to advise the Basques as to information desired and to generally supervise their operations. At the present time the Basques are intensely interested in combating Communism, and steps have already been taken to infiltrate the various Communist organisations throughout Latin America. The Basques are making a particular study of Mexico, inasmuch as they consider Mexico as the headquarters for the Communist movement in Latin America. He stated that although emphasis was being placed on Communism by the Basques, this does not exclude their men from doing any type of work desired by the Legal Attaches.

Irala also stated that the Basque delegates in New York would not desire reports on the work of the Basque agents, but would appreciate being advised occasionally in a general way as to the efficiency of the organization and as to the results obtained. He did state, however, that the Basque delegates in New York would like to be advised generally as to the activities in general of the Communists in Latin America, inasmuch as the Communists are endeavoring to take over the Iberian Peninsula, and are the most hated enemies of the Basques in Spain.

Our experience with the Basques in Latin America has indicated that they are extremely valuable informants, and they have been of assistance to the legal Attaches in a number of countries. In Venezuela where the Basque service has been exclusively handled by the Legal Attache, they have been the most valuable informants we have.

In view of their interest in combating Communism and their efforts already begum to infiltrate Communist organizations, they could be of extreme value in the future, inasmuch as Communism is presently one of the principal problems in latin America, and will become increasingly serious

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that we instruct Doyle to secure the necessary letters from President Aguirre of the Basque headquarters, instructing their representatives in each country to collaborate with the Legal Attache.

It is suggested that we agree to forward a limited number of administrative letters for the Basque delegates through the legal Attaches. It should be noted that the l are doing this at the present time,

With reference to the Basque headquarters' interest in Communism, we of course cannot furnish reports to them, but there would appear to be no objection to their own men forwarding to their headquarters certain reports with the administrative letters, which the Bureau will handle

2. It is suggested that the Legal Attaches be instructed to take immediate and full advantage of contact with the Basques, and endeavor to set up an





organization similar to that which has been successfully utilized by the Legal Attache in Venezuela. Financial arrangements should be made by the Legal Attache locally, with Bureau approval, of course, and in accordance with the value of the services rendered on the same basis that we pay other informants. Of course there does not appear to be any objection to complying with the request of the Basques in New York and telling the local Basques that the arrangements for the money are made by President Aguirre in New York.

3. In view of the importance of Mexico, Colombia, and Chile in Latin American affairs, and the necessity for the best coverage possible, particularly with reference to Communists, it is suggested that we have a Basque delegate proceed from Venezuela to these three countries to convey verbal instructions to the Basques, and to place the Legal Attache in touch with them. As noted above, the Legal Attache has very successfully utilized the Basques in Venezuela and in the three countries named there appears to be some confusion because of

New York instruct lasarte to collaborate with the Legal Attache, not to the exclusion of the but in connection with matters other than those presently being obtained for the tache should endeavor to perfect an arrangement with the local Basque representative whereby we will receive the ship reports presently being given the Any financial arrangements in connection with this should also be handled as in other countries, by arrangements with the local Basques, on the basis of services performed. It is possible that if we work with the Basques in connection with matters other than the ship-reporting service, that we may be able to gradually take over the work presently being performed for which is in accord with Irala's suggestion.

318144

Respectfully,

MU



CONAMENTAL

3/20/44

SAC, Now York

Attention: Special Agent Je . Mear Moover - Wrector, Poderal Sereau

Latin American Matters

ALL IMPORMATION CONTAIN HEREIN IS UNCLESSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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Inference is made to your letter of March 4, 1944, reflecting/results of <u>a monformee between Special Agent Jerone Dayle and Antonio Irals, Secretary to the</u> President of the Basque Government in exile. With reference to the data furnished by Irala concerning the Basque representatives acting as informants for the Bureau in latin America, the following is submitted for the guidance of Special Arent Double in connection with further conferences for the purpose of making definite manager ments with the Basque representatives in New York.

CLASSIFICATION It is desired that the necessary latters be secured from President Objuirre, directed to the Resque representatives in Latin America, concerning their Inture sollaboration with the Bureau's Logal Attaches. These letters will be forwarded by the Bureau to the legal Attaches with suprepriate instructions for contacting the local Basque representatives

but the Bureau will of course expect explusive use of their pervises in Latin America where arrangements are made locally by the Legal Attaches.

With regard to the suggestion of finals that a competent Augus representahive from Venezuela proceed to Mexico, Colombia, and Chile in order to acquaint the Ensque representatives in those sountries as to means of proper sollaboration with the legal Attaches, this will be satisfactory to the Bureau, and you should becure, further details with respect to completion of white Arthuganut,

have noted the comments of the supplied adult respect to collective term with th in Duence Aires, and their suggestions as to return work for the legal Attache. The Bureau desires that arrangements be made for the Legal Attache to stiline the local Ensque representatives in these dires for soft en political, economic, and other types of information which are not being presently described to the state of the land of furnished to the real to gradually mithdress from their arrangement with the person for the hasques to gradually mithdress from their arrangement with the but this should be left to make Higgs than (It is suggested that may ship reports presently being furnished to the shoot to the land attache for his inferential will i-out-in-Dumes Aires en a scafidjutij A ACCHAINMENDES-SECTION representatives there.

Toll Should string the Besties Willigation that Tim APPA PAPER OF THE LABOR ASSESSED AND LOCAL ASSESSED. in apportance with services perferred and on the land basis that the Bureau deals areof with the legal Attache constricting these should deligate that the draingements for these firmes here been tarks and the sections of the with respect to transmission of administrative sail to

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tween the local Basque delegates and President Aguirre which has previously been done

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the Bureau has the Bureau the from their local representatives to Produce the Bureau.

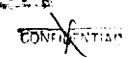
The Bureau, provided a copy of each report is made available to the Bureau.

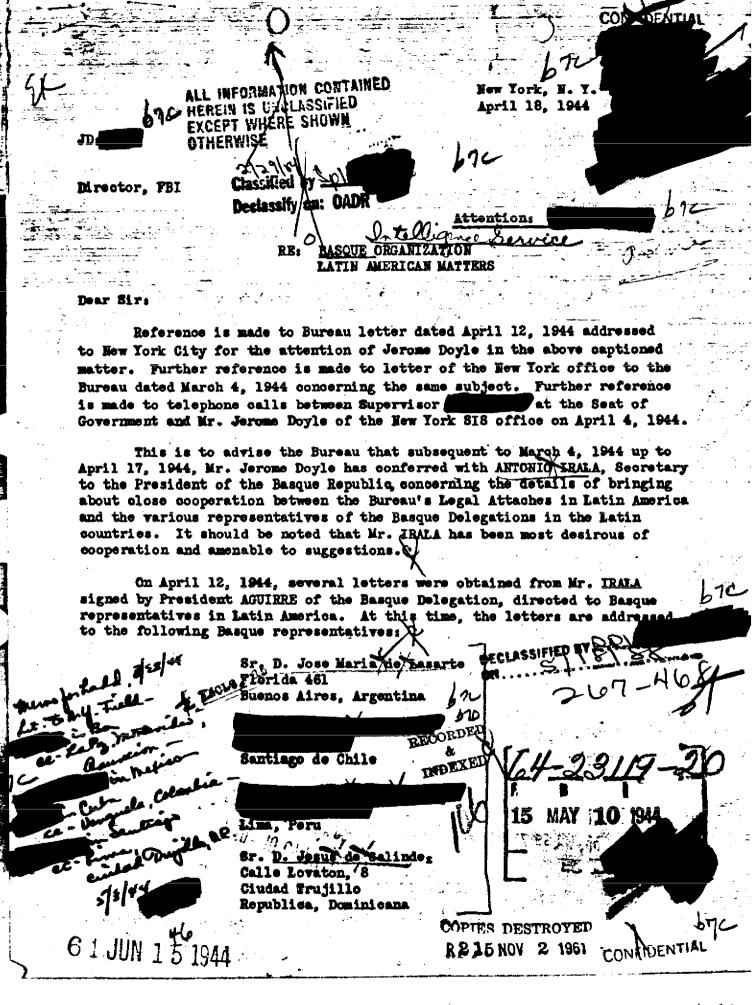
You are instructed to have Special Agent Dayle contact the Sasque delegation in the immediate future and to consumnate the arrangements for this program set forth herein. Appropriate arrangements will be unde in latin America as soon as results of further conferences with the Basques are made available to the Bureau.



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Director, FBI

New York, N. Y. April 18, 1944

Mr. IRALA turned over to Mr. Doyle translations of these letters which are written in Spanish. Copies of the translation of the letter to Dr. LASARTE and of the letter to the other Basque representatives, which is identical in all three instances, were likewise obtained and are enclosed herewith. The letters signed by President AGUIRRE are likewise enclosed.

From a perusal of the contents, the Bureau will note that each Basque representative is being instructed to deal exclusively with the bearer of the letter who will be a Bureau Legal Attache or one of his assistants. This is true in the instances of the letters addressed to the Basque representatives in Chile, Peru and the Dominican Republic. Because of the peculiar local situation existing in Argentina.

President AGUIRRE to continue his

but to turn over all maritime information obtained from various Basque sailors to the Office of the Legal Attache. This concession was obtained from the Basques by Mr. Doyle on the promise that the information would not be disseminated to various American intelligence agencies by the Bureau representatives in Argentina or in Washington.

It will be noted, of course, that President AGUIRRE is instructing Dr. LASARTE to set up an organization giving complete coverage of the economic, political, social and religious circles in Argentina. It will be further noted that Dr. LASARTE is being instructed to perfect an information service of Basques for the use of Bureau representatives in Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay. He is likewise being instructed to proceed to Santiago, Chile to assist in the perfecting of the Basque information service in that country. Mr. IRALA understands that the Bureau's representatives in Chile and the Basques have collaborated in the past but he believes that with the assistance of Dr. LASARTE, a better and more efficient Basque organization can be realized there.

It is believed that the Bureau should give the Legal Attache's office in Buenos Aires the complete background relative to the instructions to Dr. LASARTE, not only effecting Argentina but also the neighboring countries of Argentina. Consequently, when Dr. LASARTE or a representative of his is about to visit one of these countries, the name of the Bureau's representative in that country can be furnished the Basque representative. It is likewise believed the Bureau should notify the Bureau's representatives in Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile that they might expect such a visit from Dr. LASARTE or one of his assistants.

The effecting of better limison between the Bureau's representatives in Santo Domingo, Chile and Peru is hoped to be brought about by the delivery of the attached letters to the Basque representatives in these three countries.

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per of A



Hew York, H. Y. April 16, 1944

Insofar as Veneguela, Cuba, Colombia and Mexico are concerned, Mr. Doyle discussed the situation of these four countries with Mr. IRALA. Inasmuch as the Bureau had agreed with Mr. IRALA's suggestion that a Basque representative from Venesuela proceed to Mexico, Colombia and Chile, it was felt by Mr. Doyle speedier results can be obtained, with no additional expense to the Bureau, by having the Basque representative from Venesuela stop in Cuba and Colombia en route from New York to Caracas and in those two countries perfect the arranging of closer limison between the Bureau and the Basques. It appears that the Venezuelan Basque representative has been called to New York City by President AGUIRRE for a conference and is due to arrive in New York City on or about April 20, 1944. Irrespective of the results of this conference which concerns Basque matters, he will be sent back to confer with the Basque representatives in Cuba, Colombia and his own assistants in Venezuela, outlining to them the new arrangements whereby the Basques will deal exclusively with Bureau representatives in those three countries. Mr. Doyle will meet this Basque representative with Mr. IRAYA( so that there will be a clear understanding of what the arrangements are.

From conversations with Mr. IRALA, it became quite apparent to Mr. Doyle that the Basques in the Republic of Mexico offer great possibilities to the Bureau's work in that country. However, at this time, there exists little organization in the Basque Delegation. Mr. IRALA feels that if he goes to Mexico, working in conjunction with the Bureau's representatives, he could in a very brief time of ten days to two weeks, set up an organization for the Bureau's use. He suggested that the Bureau might give consideration to assigning one Agent in Mexico to work with the Basques constantly and if such a plan is feasible, Mr. IRALA will so instruct the Basques in Mexico and will introduce the Agent so designated to them. The Bureau might consider the assignment of an undercover Agent in Mexico City to such a project. Mr. IRALA believes that he could leave for Mexico on this mission or or about April 30, 1944. Mr. Doyle will notify the Bureau as to the exact date when it crystalises.

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will continue accepting

payments for various Latin American representatives until final arrangements are perfected between these various Basque representatives and the Bureau's representatives in each country.

President AGUIRRE and Mr. IRALA understood completely that the final arrangements in Latin America must be worked out between the various Legal



Enistation:

Director, FB

New York, M. Y. April 18, 1944

Attaches and the Basque representatives. President AGUIRRE and Mr. IRALA have been advised by Mr. Doyle that the Basque representatives will be made to understand that any money paid to the Basques by the Legal Attaches emanates from President AGUIRRE. It is suggested to the Bureau that in its letter outlining the proposed close liaison between the Basques and the Bureau representatives that for the guidance of the Legal Attaches, they be advised as to the amount of money remitted by President AGUIRRE monthly to these various representatives. Mr. IRALA stated that on many occasions, the Basques do not spend the money sent them and as a consequence, return it to President AGUIRRE in New York City.

Presently the money paid by President AGUIRRE to the Basques is as follows: Santo Domingo - \$75 per month; Chile - \$400 per month; Peru - \$100 per month; Cuba - \$250 per month; Venesuela - \$400 per month; Colombia - \$150 per month; Mexico - \$750 per month; Argentina (Uruguay) - \$2000; Paraguay, Bolivia - \$0; Chile - \$400 per month.

Mr. Doyle has advised the Basques that a minimum of administrative mail concerning Basque matters will be transmitted to and from Latin America by the Bureau. In addition, reports on Communism will be transmitted to President AGUIRRE through the Bureau provided a copy of such reports are made available to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY

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Enclosures 6

CONFIDENTIAL 157

, is the authorized representative of The bearer of this letter, Mr. the American organization responsible for the investigation of any enemy penetration in the Western Hemisphere affecting the security of the United States.

After numerous interviews with the heads of the organization in New York as well as in Washington, we have been informed that the organization represented by Mr. is solely responsible for the above-mentioned task in the Western Hemisphere. You know that up until the present the Army as well as the Navy and other American organizations have been working in the mentioned fields of investigation and our organizations maintained useful contacts with them. Today, according to our informatio by an agreement of the American authorities themselves, the work has been entrusted to the organization which the bearer represents. Therefore by practical agreements with their heads, the Basque organization which up to date has been collaborating with and serving the different American organizations, will work exclusively with the represents from now on. organization which Mr.

This representative, following the instructions he has received, will place the information received there in the hands of the other American organizations interes in it, but our work should be carried out with Mr. exclusively. If this change should seem strange to the other American representatives, you may inform them that you are obeying orders which I have sent you in accord with the American Authorities, will undertake to give them an adequate explanation. and as a last resort, Mr.

This new period of our collaboration with the cause of the United States is of great importance. I want you to intensify all your efforts so that our work may be the most efficient and outstanding possible. In doing this we not only aid America and the Allied Cause but also our Country to a great extent.

Take note of the following specific instructions:

- 1. The Basque organization will collaborate exclusively with the organization represents, offering all its services, means and personnel that have which Mr. been organized up to the present. Also any assistance desired among the social or political contacts of the Basques.
- 2. The Basque organization will study by itself all that it considers convenient for the Allied Cause and of America with regard to the interests which Mr. represents, presenting all kinds of suggestions or projects which might have anything to-do with it, as well as everything past experience has taught. You should not omit The defects or deficiencies observed, nor the failures which you might have had, their reasons and manner of correction.
  - all the information you receive and the measure 8. You will give Mr. which must be undertaken in order to increase and improve it.
  - for plans, ideas, projects, etc., so 4. You will constantly ask Mr. that the Basque organization may fulfill all the needs, informative as well as factual.
  - will ask for more work as time goes on deducing from what you have been doing the amount of assistance which you and your collaborators can give him. They indicate that he will begin by requesting information on the activities of the Communist Party in that country, a topic which even though it may seem strange to you, is of major importance and in the development of which I expect you to put your greater effort, much ability and maximum efficiency. The rest of the information solicited might be of general character, on political, economic problems, and on specific persons of that country or residing there and anything else that may have to do with the Allie ENCLOSUF 64-23 119-20

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cause in the Western Hemisphere.

The collaboration with Mr. should begin immediately. If before receiving this letter you have had occasion to come in contact with Mr., this letter will serve to tighten even more the established relationship, with the exclusive ness mentioned above.

The economic aid which you have been receiving from the Basque Government will continue in the future but subject to the following rules:

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- 1. Once you agree with the bearer on the plan of work to be carried out and proposes the missions or tasks which interest him, you should indicate the amount of money needed for the normal development of the work entrusted to you.
- 2. You should be guided by a just standard, avoiding both niggardliness and abuse. You should ask for that which is necessary to obtain the best results, paying adequately those persons whose assistance and efficiency is shown, covering the necessary expenses so that the work will not be interrupted because of lack of funds. You will be able to settle this question with Mr. if it arises, and if it is necessary, all that will be needed to cover the work to be carried out using the Basque organization of other types that exist in that country.
- 3. Mr. will discuss these matters with you with regard to the importance of the work that is developed or can be developed. Mr. will inform his chief of the decisions made with you on this matter. I have agreed with the heads of the organization that the amount stipulated by you and Mr. will be delivered to you there, in order to prevent the inconvenience of the remittance by us. Mr. will communicate to Washington the amounts paid and here I shall arrange with his chiefs for the payment of the sums which will be paid to you.

It is my desire that these undertakings be carried out not only with that necessary discretion that has been observed up till now, but also with great emulation, enthusiasm and discipline. The greatest sincerity and frankness should govern all our acts. The defects and deficiencies of our organization will rapidly be pointed out and brought to my attention through Mr. 's chiefs as is their duty and as I also desire. I hope that I won't have occasion to hear of any. You, in turn, should inform me through the bearer of any that you notice in this work of collaboration, and thus we will gain in efficiency.

If you have some information which you consider of special interest to me, and which you do not consider should be put in the ordinary mail, you may give it to me, requesting that it be sent to me through this service, and I shall receive it in New York.

Always remember that in serving the cause of liberty which America represent: we are serving the cause of our Country.

Dear José Mari: Declarity on: OADR

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I am sending to our heads of the Information services in different countries in Latin America. From it you will see the manner in which our activities in favor of the cause of the United Nations in general, and of the United States in particular, are definitely set with regard to the Western Hemisphere.

In each country direct and exclusive relations will be marntained with the American organization which the bearer of this letter represents. We will do the same here with the heads of the organization.

This plan has been drawn after the interviews with the chiefs that I mention in the enclosed letter. They have honored us with their confidence, and we must respond with the loyalty of always but with doubled enthusiasm and effort in the work.

Brackets Carifuld Rev DIA Keller 10-16-41 (1)

We have carefully explained your position to these Priends. They understand it perfectly.

that knowledge and it will not interfere at all with the success of your undertakings.

For the rest, you should perfect, with the bearer and your collaborators, all our organization and undertakings of all kinds in the capital and important points of the country, especially the frontier of Chile and Bolivia, making the utmost use of our penetration in the social, political, religious and economic circles. Don't worry about delays in the delivery of money which might prevent you from fulfilling the obligations to which you might commit yourself. Discuss this point with the bearer according to the terms expressed in the enclosed letter and he will furnish regularly the necessary sums and thus overcome the difficulties involved in sending the money through the regular channels.

I would like you, personally, under the terms of the enclosed letter, to undertake the organization of the work in Chile and Uruguay. I have sent the letter to Chile, but announcing you arrival to them; if you believe it convenient to send some person from Buenos Aires permanently who could better direct our people in Chile, do not hesitate to do so, or to take any other steps which you believe will lead to greater efficiency. I am not sending the letter to Uruguay because you can take quick action there.

Inform the bearer of this letter, Mr. of your trip to Chile and Uruguay if you decide to make it, in order that he may announce your arrival to his companions in the respective countries. If for some reason you cannot go to Chile Equickly, let me know so that we may take other steps.

It is also of interest that you organize our people in Paraguay and Bolivia for this type of work. In Bolivia, you will find you will find a well-connected and trustworthy young man who could be useful. These undertakings are to be begun as soon as the other more important occupations permit, either personally or by means of anyone you consider fitting.

From what has been said you will realize that our work will have to be intensified continuously. The present circumstances require the maximum effort, and you, understanding the full import of all that has been said, will know how to intensify the enthusiasm of our country-men in order that our organization in those countries will reach the greatest efficiency.

ONFIDENTIAL CONFIDE

64-23119-20

April 25, 1944

Registry No.

Classified by Declarative on OAL

Director, FBI

0Basque Sittleyne Survey

Res Chasque Organization in Venezuela
Venezuela - Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter of this office to the Director, dated February 16, 1944, in the above entitled matter. Reference is also made to the letter of this office dat Movember 5, 1943, in the above entitled matter. This is to advit that in accordance with the memorandum enclosed in the first reference letter, entitled "setting up the system", referring to the setting up of the system of Basque informants throughout Venezuela, there have been established Basque informants in the following set out cities.

Maracaibo Puerto Cabello
Rubio Valencia
San Cristobal Maracay
Merida La Guaira
Trujillo Carenero
Coro Tucupita
Porlamar (Island of Margarita)

Negotiations are pending for the establishment of informants in the towns of Cumana and Maturin Committee Sustice

At the present time, when information is needed by this office concerning subjects under investigation located in one of the above mentioned towns, a request for the desired information is made of Informant whose identity is know to the Bureau, who, in turn, forwards these requests by letter, written in the Basque language, to the various informants in sa cities. After the investigations by these informants are completed, they, in turn, forward their reports, written in the Basque language, to Informant who translates same and furnishes the report to this office written in the Spanish language.

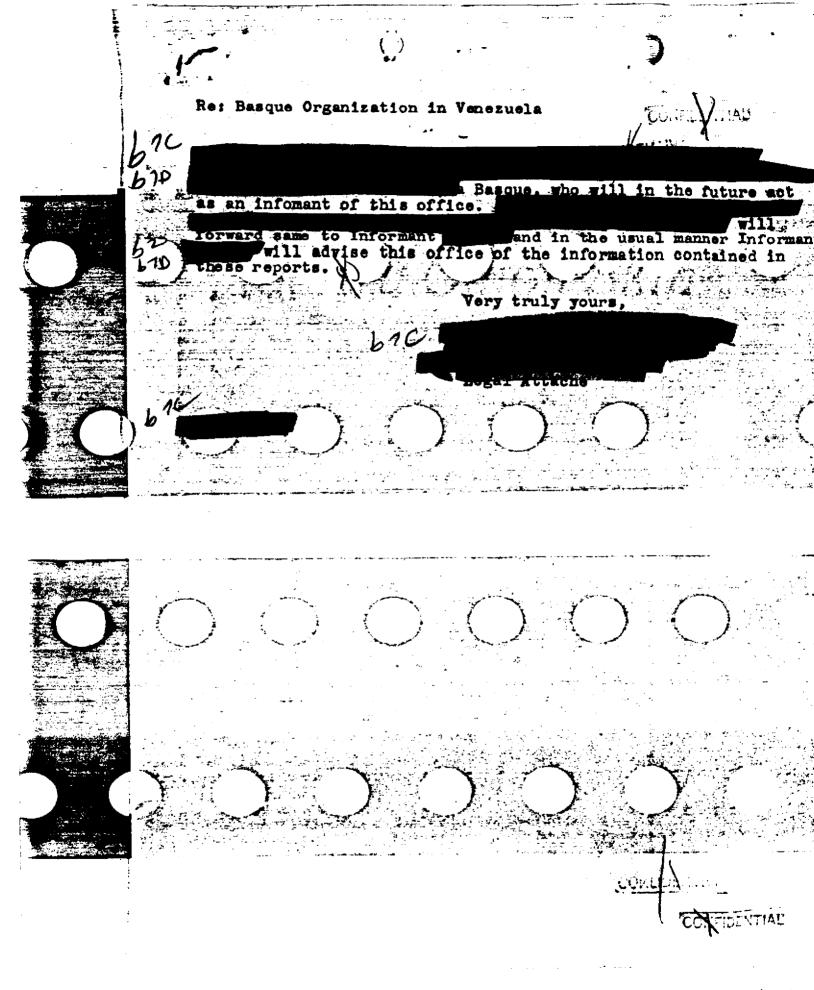
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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER E. A. Tamm DIRECTOR CONFIDENTIAL Rederal Bureau of Hivestigation Coffey\_ Glavin\_ United States Department of Justice Nichola. Washington, B. C. April 28, 19440\00 Mr. Carson, Declassify On: ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Mr. Harbo\_\_ tsified REPEIN IS UNICE Mr. Hendon\_ MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD ENSEPT WHERE SHOWN Mr. Mumford\_ 11:19-9 Mr. Starke Patricio de me OTHERWISE Besque Organization Quinn Tamm Latin American Mateena and hyoroge BACKGROUND Declassify on: CADR 267464. Nesse Miss Beahm Reference is made to my memorandum of March 14, 1944, reflecting the results of an interview by Special Agent Jerome Doyle Miss Gandy\_ with Antonio Irala, Secretary to the President of the Basque Government in exile in New York City. Irals outlined the Basque Organization presently in Latin America and indicated a desire to work there exclusively with the Bureau. Irala offered to make the necessary arrangements, and you will recall that Doyle was instructed to have these arrangements made in order that the Legal Attaches could utilize the Basque Intelligence Service in Latin America as a confidential source. & DECLASSINED TY DES DETAILS By letter of April 18, 1944, Doyle reported a further interview with Antonio Irala. There were secured from Irala letters signed by Fresident Aguirre of the Basque Delegation, directed to the Basque representatives in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; and Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic. The principal Basque representative in Venezuela is presently in New York, and it is proposed that he return via Cuba and Colombia in order to properly instruct the Basques there with reference to cooperation with the Legal Attache. Mr. Irala further proposed that a representative from New York proceed to Mexico in order to effect closer lisison between the Bureau and the Basques in Mexico City. The work of the Basques for the Legal Attache in Venezuela is already outstandingly successful, and no further action is necessary in that country.) ith reference to Argentina pu expressed the opinion that the Legal Attache should not have any difficulty in subsequently entirely taking over the Basque informants in Argentina. Dr. **QLYICTORY** Lasarte, who was sent to Buenos Aires by the Basques to direct their or-BUY ganisation, also is charged with the duty of directing the organization of Buchets upheld pur Dra felic 10/10/4/ WAR RICHMINION CONTAINED COLUMN DESTROYED \_\_ ERCWAR 2 15 NOV 2 1961 CLEEFFEE

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Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

in Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. He is being instructed by the Basques to make the necessary arrangements for informants for the Legal Attaches in these countries.

The letters which are being directed to the Basque representatives by their beadquarters set out that the Bureau is solely responsible for intelligence matters affecting the security of the United States in the Western Hemisphere. The Basque delegates are instructed to cooperate exclusively with the Legal Attache, and in the event other American representatives raise any question they are to be informed that the Basques are obeying orders received from their headquarters in New York, which are in accord with an agreement with "American authorities." Basque headquarters points out to these local Basque leaders that the "economic aid" which they have been receiving from the Easque Covernment in exile in the past will continue, but that they will work out the details of financing their intelligence work with the Legal Attache. The Basque headquarters points out that it has been agreed that the amount stipulated by the Legal Attache will be delivered to the Basques locally in order to avoid the inconvenience of a remittance by the Basque headquarters in New York.

#### ACTION

There are attached letters to the various legal Attaches which will be forwarded if you approve. There are being attached to these letters for their information a memorandum regarding the Basque Organization in New York and a memorandum reflecting the successful utilization of the Basques in Venezuela by the legal Attache.

Respectfully

C. H. Carson

Attachments

Jone

COUNTY ENTRO

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CONFUENTIAL

I. The organization is in operation in: Mexico, Santo Domingo, Cuba, Panama,

Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay.



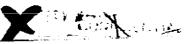
Mexico: There are many injends not only in the capital but also in the most important points of the coasts and frontiers with the United States. We have, as ample list of suspicious persons has been obtained among Common, Italian, and Spanish subjects and some Mexicans connected with them. We have not succeeded in penetrating the enemy arganization because no important matter has presented itself. The week concerning the Communist organization has been successful because we succeeded in entering it, a matter which has begun to yield fruit. Because of the lack of means in solving the problem of contacts across the extensive Mexican territory it has been impossible for us to use the means we have in different parts of the nation. There are many Basque refugees as well as established residents well acquainted with the social, economic and political life of the sountry.

The Legal Attache asked for a man to be in close contact with him. The man was supplied. We do not ballsve that the latter has done any work of importance other than the completion of minor undertakings requested of him.

Santo Domingo: Our representative is an active youth with admittance and influence in the governmental and social circles of the country. He does not have many collaborators but does have some who sould help him carry out any mission which might be given him taking into consideration the conditions of the island.

the Legal Attache. It has been impossible for us to study the situation there on our trips and therefore we do not know in detail the activities which have been developed. In Santo Domingo there are few established Basque residents and few refugees.

Subat All relations have been with the Legal Attache. Our men have limited themselves to fulfilling specific missions given them. There are established Basque residents with great influence in the economic, social and political fields. There are few Basque refugees. There are good possibilities of working among the popular masses throught ... certain organizations such as "Centro de Likependientes", Centro Gallego, Centro Catalan, Circulo Republicano Español. In the same way we can reach the religious circles throughout the country. The erganization has not been fully developed because of the lack of means and direction. It would be necessary to atrengthen the organization. Men whom we could have utilized entered the orbit of the activities of Hr. Hemingway and his friends some time ago. We did not believe it convenient to interfere in the services which some Basques were already carrying out in favor of America above all considering the special characteristics of the country and the way in which the American authorities directed the information services. We adopted this position after our first visit to the island in March 1943 and we acted consulting all metters with the Legal Attaché, at the time knew in detail our purpose and the measures undertaken.



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Panama: Our man in Panama began to act in information work before the entrance of the United States in the war.

Leter we have not been able to get him in contact with the merican authorities in Panama, or Legal. We know that our representative has continued working. In Panama there are few Basque refugees and few former residents.

Venezuria: There are many Basque refugees residing in the most important boints of the country. He believe that they can continue working in the metalianceory way with which they have done until now and undertake int mission which might be given them. No modification in the present state of affairs would have to be made other than to improve the

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Colombia:

in the future.

Our representative

organization technically and to select some of its members to reinforce other countries or give them special missions which could be of interest

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carries out his activities along
the frontier of Colombia and Panama, controling the Atlantic and
Pacific coasts of this region and the jungle sections which separate
them.

according to the circumstances
in either Colombia or Panama. Our representative in Colombia maintains
relations and has authority over him because he is the Delegate of
President Aguirre for whom

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At the present time our representative has just completed a trip through all the Golombian territories in order to perfect the organization. We are as yet unaware of the results. At the same time one of our agents has some in contact with

a person whom we believe to be very well informed about the enemy activities if indeed he doesn't take an active part in them.

· ノ Peru: There are few Basque refugees and few former residents with the exception of Basque religious and Missionaries who could be of service and will help as much as they san. Contact has been maintained

in the country and some details about specific sectors of opinion, the work has not been important.

has prevented obtaining better results. Contact has been made with the Spenish Legation but up to date this matter has not been well carried out.

Chile: There are very many established Basque residents with prestige in all spheres and sectors of the country as well as refugees who attain the same influence. Contact has been maintained with the Legal Attaché

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work information was begun late and through a lack on our part of competent direction, we do not believe that results of importance have been obtained. We can depend on capable and reliable agents for any undertaking and therefore we believe that the possibilities for success are good.

Argentina: From the beginning of the European was Rasques were working

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more efficient since the arrival of Dr. Lasarte. Up to date Dr. Lasarte

because of the influence of Germans and their friends in the Argentine governmental spheres, to cover the above mentioned activities by taking emple measures for security which have permitted the work to continue up to date without the slightest mishap.

Aside from the matural difficulties of the work in Argentina and the extent of the some, Dr. Laserte has been inconvenienced up till now by the fact that we cannot send him regularly the economic assistance that we promised because of the sircumstances in which the political life of the country develops since we were to send him the money through the regular channels. Recently we have been able to make up the delay in payments. With all this he has been able to extend the organization to the whole Argentinian territory, covering the capital and important points of the country, especially on the Chilean border.

The position of the Basques is Argentina tentimes to be satisfactory. Good relations and influence have been maintained in official circles and even with President Ramirez; also with the police. The cover provided by the society of "Basque-Argentinian Economic Studies" organized by Dr. Lasarte has given the desired results. Besides there are the Editorial Vasca "Ekin", the newspaper Euzko Deya, and numerous Basque the Editorial Vasca "Ekin", the newspaper Euzko Deya, and numerous of the country which can permit undertakings through them and can gain access to spheres of social and economic influence or to popular sectors where Communism may act.



COMEIDER

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Uruguay: Dr. Leserte has begun the information work in Uruguay. Its existence is therefore recent and up till now contacts have been with The Basque refugees as well as former residents are numerous and are influential in all the sectors of the country. We believe that the possibilities for success are great,

II. In San Salvador and Micaragua we have Religious elements of complete trustwort ness and influence as well as some civilians, which would permit the rapid organization of information pervises if desired. The same in Bolivia. This has not been undertaken as yet because our trips have not permitted us to visit these countries.

III. About the work sarvied our to date we would like to make the following observations:

A. We have tried at all times to use the Basque refugees almost exclusively since they, because they are accustomed to fighting for our country and because they have a greater spirit of sacrifice, seemed better suited to this type of undertaking. In general we have not made use of established Basques until we have studied them carefully in order to prevent the difficulties which could arise from the habits formed by economic preoccupations and easy ways of life, even when their ideological integrity was well known to us.

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In economic matters, the emphatic order of President Aguirre was sent to all sections to the effect that our men should not receive any economic remuneration whatsoever from the American authorities in the respective countries. This responds to our desire to rouse the greatest spirit of sacrifice in the service of the United States and to prevent any duplicity in payments, inequality in recompenses, and any eccesion for abuse by any of our men even when we are certain that such a thing would not occur because of the integrity of the persons who intervene in this type of undertakings. The direct receipt of money has been tolerated only in America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

T.,...

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In Venezuela an agreement with the Legal Attaché was authorized in the same manner because it was considered imperative for the progress of the work which is carried out there after having seen the disinterest and abnogation with which our people have worked and because our remittance sovered little more than the salary of

IV. In our desire to reach the most perfect collaboration and efficiency in the worl whose expansion we study, we would like to make the following observations:

It would be useful to discuss a plan of work in each of the countries, knowing beforehand the general lines of the most important problems, for perhaps we could facilitate some formula to improve our contribution, strengthening our organization with appropriate members. It is necessary to point out that our men in each of the countries cannot offer solutions to specific problems which might arise because they do not know the state of our organimation and its practical possibilities outside of the country in which they act.

Within the lines that are decided upon, President Aguirre will send the proper instructions to each country by means of the Legal Attache in order that the latter may transmit them to our representative. With the mentioned instructions the Legal Attaché will be able to organize the work planning the specific matters to be undertaken in order to direct the work of our men and to prevent the difficulties which we pointed out in Number III, Section C. Mevertheless, we are afraid that the new orders if delivered only in writing would not be sufficient to prevent confusion in some places, especially in Mexico, Colombia and Chile. In order to prevent this difficulty we think that perhaps it would be wise to have some well selected man of ours personally explain the situation in detail and at the same time solve the deficiencies of management on our side in Mexico and Chile. At the same time it could serve as hedan opportunity for the Heads of the Legal Attachés to give him the exact instructions which must be carefully transmitted and explained can full to our men in order that they may interpret them properly.

Consideration Consideration

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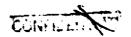
Special attention should be given to the situation of Argenting.
Once the basis for future action is established, an extensive organization could be set up which would work closely and well coordinated smong Chile, Argenting, Uruguay and perhaps Bolivia under the direction on our part of Dr. Lasarte who in collaboration with the respective Legal Attaches could carry out an excellent job because of his qualities.

With reference to Communism it would be wise to settle, keeping in mind the menner in which the Communists act, whether the work of a our organisation would cover all or part of the following aspects; investigation in each country of the Communist agents, their affiliates and sympathizers, whether foreign or native; activities of agents; means or aids of which they take advantage; manner in which the Communists make use of social, political and sconomic sectors in each country for their own interests; topics which they use for their work of agitation is the social and political fields.

We consider Mexico as the head of the Communist movement in Latin America; Cuba, Argentina and Chile as good territory for action and base for operations. We believe that Colombia will follow Mexico in importance in the near future.

In studying the Communist activities we are under the impression that our organization would be especially efficient in all of Latin America and come to be an instrument of importance. A well-sonceived plan using our agents, specially trained, could give us an intimate knowledge of the Communist system and our agents would work this field with increasing anthusiasm. Later on if Communism were to continue in a direction contrary to the democratic interests, once the information network is established, perhaps we could begin an active movement against it in the ideological sphere using our centers of influence throughout Latin America following directions which must be planned.

In economic matters our organization up till the present is maintained by remittances which President Aguirre carries out. The sums of money sent monthly are as follows: Mexico, \$750; Peru, \$100; Cuba, \$250; Sante Domingo, \$75; Panama, \$100; Venezuela, \$400; Chile, \$400; Colombia, \$150; and Argentina \$2000 which includes Uruguay. Home of our agents should be considered as a professional though they have been cocupied in these activities for a long time. A personal secrifice is involved when they devote themselves to the services of information for they must abandon their pustomery way of life. totally or partially according to the stromstances. In order to improve the efficiency of the work we point out the convenience of paying our organization in order that bur people may dedicate themselves exclusively to informative undertakings, The plans decided upon for each specific place could serve as a guide for the amounts to be paid. As a matter of fact, we would like to state that what is now sent to Argentina is not enough to develop an organization throughout the whole country. The same may be said about Cube to improve the work that is being done, and about Chile and Mexico to cover the entire territories, if it is of interest.



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we are not specially is reste in knowing in detail the information services which our agents , rry out, especially in those related to espionage activities of the enemy; more than that, we would prefer not to know them for our own tranquility. But in order that our collaboration might be as efficient as possible we would like to be informed of the progress of the work with favorable or unfavorable comments; in the latter case so that we may study the causes and attempt to find satisfactory solutions. Only in the case of the activities about Communism are we interested in knowing the results of the work of the organization because with this knowledge we could interpret the facts and give suggestions which Might be at interest. Besides Letin American Communism pursues the bolohevization of the Iberian Peninsula with special interest and makes the Basque Country the main target of its womity. This Information would be of great value to President Aguirre as President of the Besque Country.

#### Final Observations:

1. We have pointed out in general lines what we think is most important about our present situation in order to emeliorate our future collaboration. We would gladly give more details if considered necessary.

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We have not given the names and addresses of our representatives in this note for the sake of brevity, but we will supply them when necessary.

Aside from the information services, President Aguirre must sometimes communicate with the Basque Delegates, especially those of Mexico and Argentina to inform them of matters affecting the political interests of the Basque Government.

b-IA

This is to prevent the intervention of the censors of Mexico and Argentina, and possible interference of others. Once our collaboration with the Legal Attachés is established, we would appreciate it if they would take care of this communication if it is not inconvenient.

New York, March 2, 1944

TONA COTION

CONFIDENTIAL Now York **My 3, 1944** of Investigation AL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE / \ Former is made to your letter of April 16, 1944, someoning the Busquinting America cooperating emplusively with the legal Attaches there. ming the Barque letters discoved to the Maque delegates in Argentina, Chile, Para, and Desixispublic have been forwarded as suggested. The legal Attaches in Venezuela, the, and Oute have been advised that the skief of the Venezuelan delegation Mill visit these sountries on his roturn from Now York, and the Legal Attache in Mexico has been advised of the impending visit of a Resque delegate from New York. You should advise the Bureau of the departure of those Busques from New York City in order that the legal Attaches my be advised. The legal Attache in Busines Aires has been instructed in accordance with It is noted that in the past the Basque Government in exile in New York has ferented \$2,000 per month to the local Basers delegate in Busnes Aires his mee in Argentine and To 5-1  $C_{\rm c}$ You should make it slear to the Maque representative in New York that the Martan will finance only such work as is found necessary by the legal Attache, and will pay only for information that is surplished to him and by arrangements with him. of Brackets classes on her bit heat 06746 WIND NICTIONS Richols Tracy 41/1859 quim Ti Declaraty on: CADR

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Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BINES

Attention:

New York, N. Y. May 9, 1944

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RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS

Doar Sir. Brackets classified per

Classified by 9803 Declassify on: CADR 26746 8

Mr. Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office conferred on May 2 and 4, 1944, with ANTONIO IRALA, Secretary to the President of the Basque Republic.

Basque representative stationed at Caracas, Venezuela.

Is to return to Caracas in the very near future when he will confer with the Basques stationed there relative to the close relationship which is to be brought about between the Basques in Latin America and the Bureau's representatives. Within a few days, he will go to the western frontier of Venezuela and will meet the Basque representative from Colombia in San Cristobal, Colombia and outline to him the desires of President Aguirre with respect to the need for close relationship between the Bureau and the Basques in Colombia.

It was not felt advisable by President Aguirre that stop off in Cuba for a like purpose and it was decided that in view of the fact that the Basques in Cuba are already working closely with the Legal Attache, that such a stop by was not really needed.

On May 4, 1944, Mr. IRALA turned over to Mr. Doyle two letters signed by President Aguirre and addressed respectively to the section of the control of the c

letter previously furnished the Bureau addressed the Basque representatives in Peru, Chile and other countries.

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EATIN KINGS

Director. FBT

New York, N. Y. May 9, 1944

It was requested by Mr. IRALA that as soon as the letter of Dr. Aguirre to LASARTE is delivered, that he be notified in New York City so that proper arrangements can be made to handle further correspondence with LASARTE.

Very truly yours,

E. E.

E. E. CONROY

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Enclosures 2

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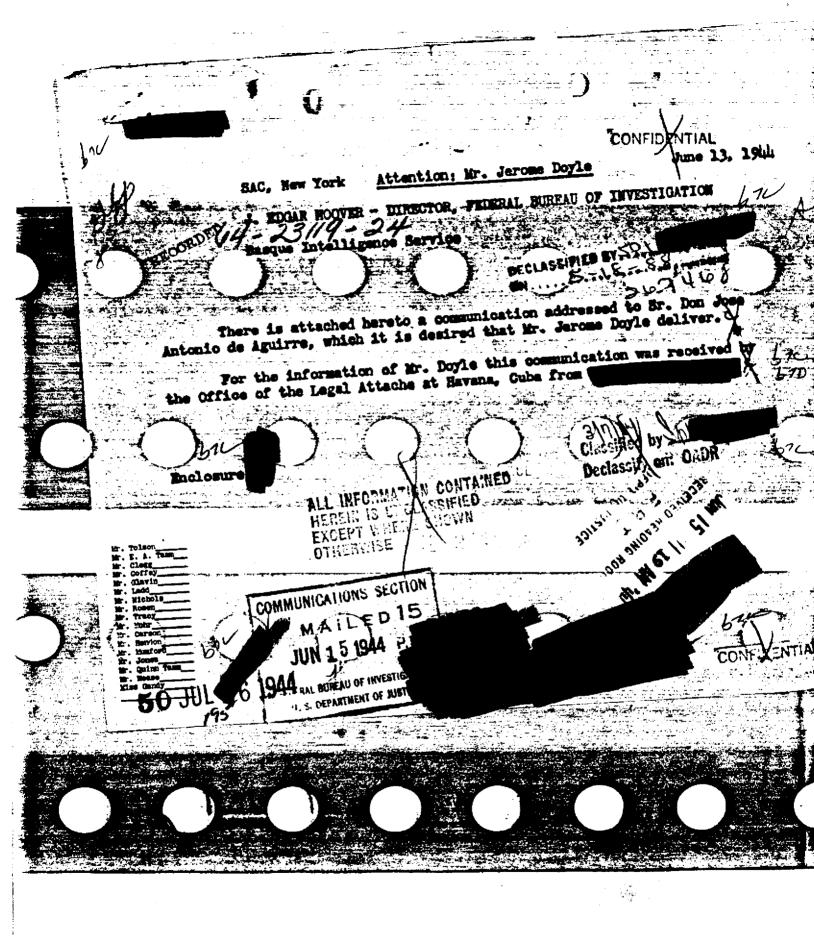
Personal and conflicktial VIA DEPLOMATIC AIR POUCH 117EX - 35 The American Bub Havana. Ouba: J. Edgar Hoover - Mirector, Federal Bureau of Investigat **经验的** (1995年) (1995年) (1995年) Subject: Besque Organisation THE THE CEINED SCOTT IN THE Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of May 3, 1944, advising that the representatives of the Basque Government in exile would in the future cooperate explusively with you. You were also advised that Basque delegation in Venezuela, was in New York and would require via Cuba and Co-10 lombia in order to instruct the Basque delegates in these countries with reference to this matter. idvice has now been received that returned directly to Caracas. but in the near future he will go to the western frontier of Venesuela in order to meet the Basque representative from Colombia and to outline to him the desires of President Aguirre of the Basque delegation with respect to relationships between the Bureau and the Basques in Colombia. . did not travel via Cuba, inasmuch as close cooperation does exist at present between the legal Attache and the Beaute "" representatives there. However, the enclosed letter has been farmished to the Burel by President Aguirre, for delivery to the head of the Basque delegation in Cuba. There is also attached to the sony of this letter designated for Bogota a letter to be delivered to the Basque delegation in that city. These letters instruct the Basque delegates to establish close collaboration with you. and the second of the second of the second Instructions in the Bureau letter of reference should be fellowed th these contacts. ection with these contacts. M 12 2 22 LL he Lierican Labeaux COME ROLONGIANS SECTION "Yene we I Garacas, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SPECE OF THE LEGAL ATTA EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CARACAS, VENEZUELA June 3, 1944 Logal Attuché American Embassy Bogota, Colombia Beaque Organi mation Venezuela Administrati Reference is made to Bureau 1 Attaché at Havans, Cubs, dated May 15, 1944 with a sopy designated for your office. This is to advise that in accordance with the informs tion set out in the reference letter, Bogota, Lolombia presents in Circus, Venezuela, conferring with and other representatives of the Basque Delegation in Caracas concerning the desires of President Aguirre, of the Basque Government in Exile, that all Basque Delegetions throughout Central and South America work with the representatives of the Bureau. Port is anticipated that the Colombian Delegat Il return to Colombia within the next few days and will contact you relative to the working out of a plan mereby your office will use the members of the Basque Delegation for intelligence purpos RECEIVED-CARSO 35 JUN 13 1944 5 3 JUN 28 1944

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACH EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA une 5, 1944 267468 Director, FBI Dear Sir: Reference is made to Bureau letter dated May 3, 1944 wherein it is stated that in the event the Basque representatives located in Ouba desire to send any messages to President JOSE ANTONIO de AGUIRRE they should be forwarded to the Bureau for delivery. In accordance with the authorization contained in Bureau letter of reference there is transmitted herewith an envelope delivered to this office on June 3, 1944 by of DR. ACUIRRE) When the request that the bureau cause It to be forwarded to the addressee in New York. For the Bureau's information there is attached to this letter a copy letter to President AGUIRRE in New York City. This letter represents reply to DR. AGUIRRE'S letter to him which was transmitted with Bureau letter dated May 15, 1944. Arrangements with the local Basque Intelligence Service which were discussed in my letter of May 25, 1944 and confirmed by Bureau radiogram #606 of May 31, 1944 have been perfected with June 1, 1944 this organization is being financed solely by this office. Expenditures made in connection with the operation of the local Basque Intelligence Service will be forwarded to the Bureau in the regular monthly expense account of the Havana office unless the Bureau desires a different method of handling these expenses. Very truly yours, Classified Declassify oh: OADR 27 JUN 171944 JINDEXED ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNITABSIFIED. EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN CTHERWISE

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How York, H. Y. June 28, 1944

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS LYCLASSIFIED EXCEPT VAIZE SHOWN OTHERWISE

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION MEXICO - ARGENTINA RAMON ORMAZABAL - COMMUNIST

Dear Sire

On June 22, 1944, ANTONIO/IRALA, Secretary of the Basque Delegation in New York City, turned over to Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office the attached letters addressed to Br. D. Jose Maria de Lasarte,

bru Florida 461, Buends Aires, Argentina and 678 Mexico, D.F. (V)

> Mr. IRALA explained that both letters carried the same message which was to the effect that the Basque representatives in these two countries were being asked to forward to the President of the Basque Republic in New York City at the earliest possible moment a detailed description and a photograph of

> Mr. IRALA explained char this was being done at the specific request of Special Agent William Costello of the New York Field Division. (V)

It is requested that the attached letters be forwarded and the response to them made known to Mr. Doyle in the New York SIS office so that appropriate use may be made of description and photograph in

New York City.

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Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY

Enclosures 2

RECORDED 6 INDEXED 27 JUL 8 1944

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTI VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURTER POUCH Jme 10, -1944 ir. Trancis E. Grosby The American Babbany Buenos Aires, Argentina J. Migar Hoover - Director, Tederal Bureau of Investigation Subjects Basque Organization, Mexico-Argentina; Reach Ormasabal, Communis On June 22, 1944, Senor Antonio Irala, Secretary of the Basque Delegation in New York City, turned over to a representative of the New York Field Office two letters, one addressed to Senor D. Jose Maria de Lasarte. Florida 161, Buenos Lires, lirgentina, and the other Mexico, D. T. hese letters carried the same message which is to the effect that the Besque representatives in Argentina and Mexico were being asked to forward to the President of the Basque Republic in New York City at the earliest possible moment a detailed description and a photograph of Senor Irala explained that this was being done at the specific request of an Agent of the New York Field Division. You are instructed to deliver the enclosed letter to Senor de Lasarte, furnishing the Bureau with the results of Senor de Lesarte's investigative efforts. The legal Attache at Mexico City is being instructed to deliver the inclosed letter simplarly advising the furesu of the results of the latter's investigative efforts. PEDERAL SURFACE OF NESTICE

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FBI/DOJ

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HABANA, CUBA
June 36, 1944

30, 1944

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE

100 D

Habana, has requested that this office forward the enclosed letter by diplomatic pouch for delivery to Dr. ANTONIO DE TRALA, Secretary to Dr. AGUIRRE, President of the Basque Nationalist Group, 30 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Attached hereto are untranslated copies of the two letters contained in the enclosed envelope. Copies of these letters have also been retained by this office for reference purposes only.

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Attaché

Very truly yours.

British July Completed to the State of the S

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Office of the Legal Attaché
Buenos Aires, Argentina
June 24, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

De ORGANIZATION

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
Argentine administrative

Dear Sir:

There is being forwarded with this letter an envelope containing correspondence between JOSE LARIA DE LASARTE, Basque representative in Argentina, and JOSE ANTONIO DE LEGUIRRE, Basque President in New York City. It is requested that the envelope be delivered to the latter

Very truly yours,

Jepanets bowly
FRANCIS E. CROSEY,

FRANCIS E. CROSBI, Legal Attaché.

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New York, N. Y. July 14, 1944

JD: EMC

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UZCLASSIFIED EXCEPT VINERE SHOWN **OTHERWISE** 

V. P. KRAY Attention:

BASQUE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION

Dear Sir:

b18. Pursuant to the telephonic request of Supervisor on July 8, 1944, Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office discussed with ANTONIO TRALA, Secretary of the Basque Delegation, the possibility of the Basques furnishing courier service in and out of Argentina in the event of a break of relations between that country and the United States of America. Mr. IRALA stated that he felt there were many Basques presently in Chile who could very easily be used as couriers between Chile and Argentina. He advised that many of the Basques in Chile had Chilean citizenship which entitled them to freedom of movement between Chile and Argentina with little or no immigration requirements needed. He stated that be used in courier work. In addition, there were many Basques in Chile

For trips between the two

countries.

He added that this individual has

worked very successfully with the Bureau representative in Venezuela over a period of time and that he might be used either as an intelligence operator in Argentina or as a liaison man between the Bureau representative in Chile and the Basques and any other undercover operators the Bureau might have in Argentina. This individual's name is and in addition to being a loyal Basque,

For the Bureau's information this subject matter was discussed with Mr. IRALA in addition to other matters and he was given no indication that any such break of relations between Argentina and the United States was immediately imminent. It was merely discussed with him as sort of a hypothetical situation which might exist in the future Resorbich plans should be made in advance of the event.

The foregoing information was telephonically betlined to supervisor of this letter on July 10, 1944 and is being confirmed through

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Very truly yours,

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New York. N. Y. June 23, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNIX ASSIFIED EXCEPT WHEN TO COMMIT EXCEPT VHE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Attention:

RE: THE BASQUE ORGANIZATION Basque Intelligence Sers

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter of the Civil Attache at Mexico City dated June 1, 1944 in the above captioned matter in which the Civil Attache advised the Bureau as to the results of several conferences between representatives of the Civil Attache's office in Mexico, D.F. and Mr. ANTONIO IRALA, Secretary to the President of the Basque Delegation in New York City. This is to advise that on June 8, 14 and 20, 1944. Mr. Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office had further equiperences with Mr. IRALA following Mr. IRALA's return from Mexico City.

Mr. IRALA outlined to Mr. Doyle substantially the conversations he had had in his three meetings in Mexico City with Bureau representatives. He stated that the request of the Bureau's representative that the Basques furnish five investigators who would be paid from 250 to 300 peacs a month was almost impossible to be met by the Basques in Mexico, D.F. He pointed out that the Civil Attache desired the exclusive use of these investigators . which would perforce prevent them from carrying on any other business activity to augment their income. Mr. IRALA pointed out that any Basques in Mexico who he would recommend as an investigator would have to have the proper mental acumen and moral stability. He pointed out that all of the Basques. who would fit these qualifications are presently employed in private enterprise making incomes of from 500 to 1000 pesos a month. He added that President AGUIRRE of the Basque Delegation did not feel that these Basques should be ordered out of their present business to work for half or less than half of their monthly salary in view(of/the fact that they had families to support and other fixed obligations in the RECORDED and INDIVIDUAL INDIVIDUAL

Mr. IRALA, upon the second occasion he conferred with MB. Doyle advised that he had gone into the Mexican matter in great detail with President AGUIRRE and that it was their combined conclusion that the goestier of payment to Basques was of minor importance and that it was the desire of the Basque Delegation that the Basques in Mexico City work with the Bureau's representatives. Mr. IRALA stated that the Basque Delegation was feady to pay the difference between the amount paid by the Civil Attache to the Basques and

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Director, FBI

New York, N. Y. June 23, 1944

the previous monthly stipend of \$750 American or \$000 pesos Mexican. He added that it was President AGUIRRE's desire that the Basque representative, be contacted and that the attached letter from President AGUIRRE to be delivered to him. It will be noted from the contents of this letter that no mention is made of the amount of money that the Civil Attache should pay inasmuch as President AGUIRRE feels that the Basques in Mexico should work for the Bureau representative without pay if necessary.

The most important request of the Basques in New York City with respect to payment of money by the Civil Attache is that if the Civil Attache does pay any sums to Basque representatives in Mexico City, that the amount so paid be made known to the Basques in New York City so that the full \$750 a month will not be sent by the Basques in New York to the Basques in Mexico City.

Mr. IRALA stated that he felt once liaison was perfected between the Civil Attache's office and that that gradually thereafter the Civil Attache's office could begin to find more and more uses for the Basques. He stated that from his study of the Basques in Mexico, he felt that immediately the following types of information could be provided by the Basques to the Civil Attache:



Mr. IRALA stated that if the Civil Attache has specific work in mind
for the prospective five investigators, that he give this work to
another than the give this work to
formal investigators on a payroll. He stated further that for the Civil
Attache to make full use of the potentialities of the Basques, that other
specific problems and questions be presented to them with the request that
they obtain results.

Mr. IRALA stated that he feels that if the Civil Attache's office will show patience at the outset with the Basques, that within a short period of time, substantial results should be obtained. He requested that any

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Director, FBI

Hew York, N. Y. Jung 23, 1944

shortcomings on the part of the Basques be called to the attention of the Basque Delegation in New York City through appropriate channels and that the necessary directions to correct these shortcomings will be made by the President of the Basque Delegation.

Mr. Doyle, on June 8 and 15, 1944, outlined the results of these conferences with Mr. IRALA to Supervisor at the Seat of Government. The foregoing facts are being furnished the Bureau so that appropriate and immediate action might be taken by the Civil Attache's office in Mexico City. For the purpose of expediting this matter, an extra copy of this letter is being furnished the Bureau so that it might be forwarded to that office by the Bureau with appropriate Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Coursy

E. E. CONROY SAC

Enclosure 1

cc - Civil Attache's office Mexico, D.F.

CONFIDENTIAL

Lett from N Y dated 6/23/44 RECORDED Personal and com VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR DOURIER POUC L INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNALASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE Mexico, D. F. J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation THE BASQUE ORGANIZATION Subjecti Enclosed is a copy of a letter received from E. E. Conroy, Speci Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, relative to the above-captioned organisation. You will observe the references made in this letter to the communication received from the Civil Attache at Mexico City dated June 1, 1985, in which the m. E. A. The Civil Attache advised the Bureau as to the results of several conferences between sepresentatives of the Civil Attache's Office in Mexico, D. F. and Mr. Antonio Mr. Glavir retary to the President of the Basque Delegation un Mer Michal COMMUNICATIONS SECTION It is suggested that you study earefully the enclosed co on Special Agent in there E. E. Conroy and work out a solution on alongstion contained therein. 🛇 is also enclosed a letter addressed to exist the first in Control of the first the Maw North Field Division, to be given to the addresses in the customar - wour person of the contents.

Bogotá, Colombia July 6, 1944

ALL INFORM HEREIN IS L GSSIFIED EXCEPT VINERA SHOWN OTHERWISE

Director, FBI

BASQUE ORGANIZATION Ret Confidential Informants COLOMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from Bogota to the Bureau dated July 8, 1944, regard-ing arrangements which have been made for use of the local Basque organization for providing information to this office.

Information received from this group in the future will be designated as having come from

Very truly yours.

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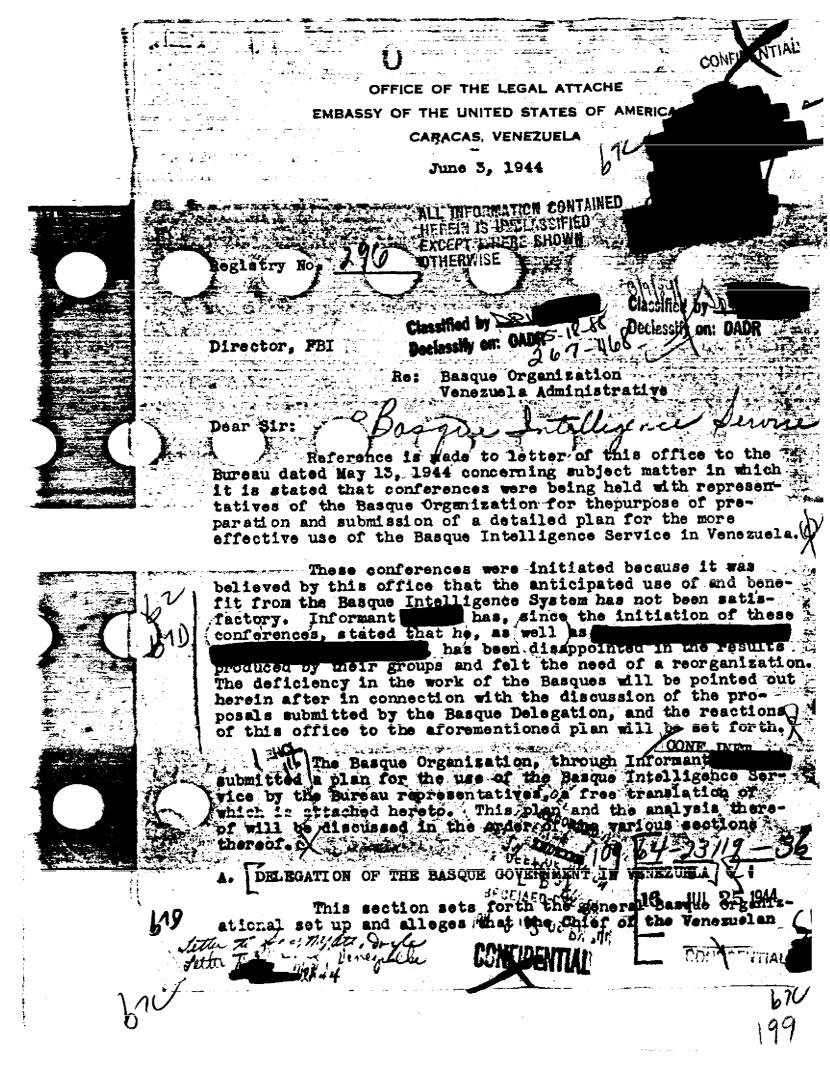
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has received the sum of \$400.00monthly from the Basque Government in Exile with its offices in New York. (The source of this sum of \$400.00 is set forth in the Bureau letter to the Legal Attaché, Havana, Cuba, dated May 3, 1944 and entitled "Basque Organization). This part of the plan indicates the desire that the Bureau continue the payment of this sum to the Chief of the Venezuelan Delegation.

ceived by the Legal Attache's Office at Caracas from the payment of this sum, would be that the Chief of the Delgation would sign any letters that might be written to any members of the intelligence service located outside of the City of Caracas. This delegate devotes his full time to the handling of the affairs of the Basque Government, i.e., the care of the Basque citizens located in Venezuela and depends on the receipt of this sum for his expenses. Informant adopted the attitude that since the Basque organization had given up its source of income to be of assistance to the Bureau, it is only just that this payment be made.

The benefit that would be received by the Bureau from the expenditure of this sum would be negligable. In the opinion of this office, the Basque Intelligence Service can be utilized without having the Chief of the Basque Delegation sign the letters to the representatives located in other cities as herein before set out. This office is not cognizant of the extent of the agreement made in New York at the recent meeting between the Bureau representatives and the representatives of the Basque Government in Exile. Therefore it is not known whether an arrangement was made or whether it was indicated that the sum of \$400.00 would be paid the Chief Delegate in Venezuela for the purposes above set out.

B. TORGANIZATION IN THE INTERIOR OF VENEZUELA

This section is devoted to the explanation of the set up of the Basque Intelligence Service outside of Caraci Venezuela and the interior of the country. It states that there is a Basque representative in eleven towns within the interior of Venezuela whose duty it is to make reports on leads furnished by Bureau representatives and to furnish general information of an intelligence nature.







In this connection it is desired to point out that this system has been in effect for approximately seven months and has been most disappointing. Leads have been furnished Informant (referred to in the memorandum attached as by bureau representatives to be covered in the various cities mentioned. After a delay of from one to three weeks, he has, after continual prompting by this office, sent a letter to the Basque representative in these towns. In all cities except three the Basque representative has completely ignored the request for information and has not replied to the request.

The three individuals, located in three different towns, who have responded to such requests have done so in a most unsatisfactory manner. Despite the fact that they have received detailed instructions setting forth the type of information desired, their information has been limited to giving the subject's name, address, description and a general allegation of subject tendencies of subject without factual basis therefor.

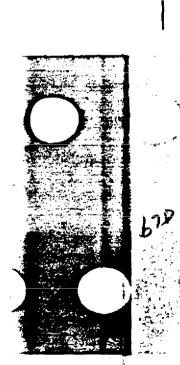
During the discussion of this matter with Informant he stated that he and the Basque Organization had been most disappointed with the results obtained from this arrangement and that the system was considered a failure. Therefore these circumstances and the further fact of the paucity of leads in the towns in the outlying districts of Venezuela are pointed out to give the Bureau a basis for the consideration of this item.

c. SHOTELS

In this section there is set forth an elaborate plan for the establishment of informants in the principal hotels in Caracas, some of whom are to be paid informants. In addition thereto the plan sets forth a scheme to have a particular hotel recommended by

so that the incoming passengers who had no predetermined destination would go to a hotel in which an informant was stationed. Addition an advertising scheme in connection with the incoming Spanish boats is contemplated in an effort to channel passengers to a hotel incaracas for the same purpose. The scheme contemplates also the initiation of a passenger service, at Bureau expense, from Puerto Cabello to Caracas, Venezuela to carry passengers to one of the aforementioned hotels.

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While this office feels that all the contacts of the Basque Organization presently in hotels should be used, it is not believed practical to put in effect such an elaborate scheme as set out in the Basque proposals, the effect and use of which is entirely problematical and could be considered as a method to increase the business of a Basque Hotel owner, as set out in the enclosed plan, at the expense of the Bureau.

D. SPANISH SHIPS

This section is devoted to the use of a Basque agent

is now in use on and is considered practical and of use to the Bureau representatives in Caracas.

E. CARACAS - PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATION



The duties of the group of ten persons forming the principal intelligence committee in Caracas have been, in the past, to discuss the leads furnished them by the Bureau representatives and that individual on said committee who knew the subject of the investigation had the duty to investigate the same. This committee met once a week for the above pur-The past experience of this office with this method of procedure has been most disappointing. On receipt of a lead he would, if he had sufficient time after by Informant the handling of his personal affairs, call a meeting of the committee as above set out and assign the lead to one of its Two or three weeks later, this committee member would be asked for a report. Almost invariably he would state that he had been so busy with his private business that he had not had the time to investigate the lead.

mantage the matter to the attention of Informantage to the stention of Informantage to the stention of a type that could be obtained from a city directory or from a credit report was





forthcoming. These reports do not have much value despite the fact that detailed instructions have been given and are continually being given to Informant setting forth the information desired.

on his return from his recent trip Informant to the United States, stated that he considered the use of this type of a plan a failure due to the fact that each member of the committee had his own private business and was too busy to bother himself with the investigative effort necessary for the efficient handling of leads. Therefore, according to this informant, the information furnished has been of little He suggested the addition to the previous plan of procedure an investigation force of two persons to make the actual investigations. (Section F. Caracas - Reports and Investigations). It is to be noted however that in additions to the payment of Be 1000. (\$300) monthly to the central committee for a minimum amount of supervisory work, the new plan calls for the payment of the salary of two investigators. total of their joint selaries are estimated in the plan as \$495. 00 U.S. monthly.

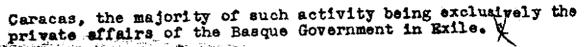
Until November 1943, the Basque Organization was most helpful with technical services in connection with the Spanish Legation. But since that time their services have been practically worthless and have by necessity been limited to routine investigation. The Basques have taken an interest in work of a second story nature but they have shown very little if any interest in or applitude for routine investigations.

It became evident as early as January, 1944, that the work of the Basque Intelligence Service was unsatisfactory. Thereupon in the hope that by close supervision and assistance the efforts of the Basques could be crystalized, continued efforts were made to correct the failings of the system. Constant suggestions were made by this office, persuasion methods used, various conferences were held in an effort to coordinate the efforts of and instill a desire in the various members thereof to perform the necessary work. However, there has been no appreciable improvement in the effect of the organization.

The impression has been received by this office from the conferences held that the local Basque organization desires that the Bureau finance it in all of its activity in

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ganization is unable, either because of the fact that the personal affairs of the members of the committee require mot of their time or because they lack aptitude for general interingative work, to be of much assistance to this office. It is believed that the result of the plan, as set forth in the attached memorandum, would be that the two investigators would perform all of the investigation required of the organization by this office for which they would be paid and this would leave little of value that could be contributed by the organization itself. With this fact in mind it is be noted that the organization desires to receive a considerable amount of money for which the Bureau would receive to material benefit.

After a careful consideration of the plan as submitted, the following observations are made by this office:

1. It is not believed that the Chief of the Basque Delegation in Caracas would be performing services for which he is entitled to receive remuneration.

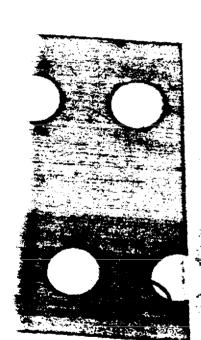
2. It is not believed that the organization within the interior of Venezuela will be effective as an investigati unit. However, it is recommended that it be maintained for emergency use on the understanding that expenses only of various representatives will be paid.

3. It is recommended that the various contacts in the Hotels in Caracas at present be used but that no plan fo the establishment of Basque personnel in other hotels be established at Bureau expense. However, it is felt that an exception should be made to permit the establishment of a contact in if future circumstances justify same.



**-** 6 →





CONFDE TIAL

6. It is the opinion of this office that the Central Committee has not and will not perform services of sufficient value to be paid for such services.

7. It is recommended that the suggestion for the employment of one full-time Basque investigator be approved. However, it is felt that the rate of payment should be less than those set out in attached memorandum since past experience has shown that it is not necessary to pay full-time investigators for general investigative services such sums.

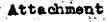
It should be remembered however, that in order to maintain the friendship of the Basque Organization, it will probably be necessary to pay more for the work performed than is usual since the Basques feel that they are placing their entire organization at the service of the Bureau. In this connection, it is desired to point out that if their duties are increased from time to time, they usually indicate a desire to have their monthly remuneration increased.

It is requested that the Bureau advise this office concerning its attitude concerning the plan of the Basques as set out in the attached memorandum as well as whether the Bureau is in accord with the idea of this office that the Basques can be of little service to the Bureau representatives in Caracas, Venezuela, and the surrounding territory within Venezuela except as set out herein. The arrangement that has been in effect for some months will be continued until advice to the contrary is received from the Bureau.

Very truly yours

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Legal Attache



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As a result of the instructions which we have received from our Chiefs in the United States, and after the interviews held with you, we have been entrusted to present a plan of reorganization of the services of our group in Venezuela.

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while putting this plan into effect we do so considering the proportional share of the possibilities which our group in Venezuela offers at the present time, that is, neither excessively full with results which would not be worth while, nor too limited which would not permit the entire contribution which our Organization can offer. This is a special recommendation from our Chiefs which coincides entirely with our own desires and enthusiasm. We must also keep previous experience in mind, extracting that is positive from it and pointing out the reasons which, in our judgment, from it and pointing out the reasons which, in our judgment, principally in matters referring to reports and investigations.

Thus we see that when we had at our disposal persons who because of their special occupations were able to give part of their time to these activities, the reports were, in our opinion, sufficiently complete and satisfactory. Each report received all the attention which it required; different sources of information were sought for in order to complete and contrast them, and it may be said that they were not considered finished until all the means of information within our reach had been materially exhausted. The same occurred with other specific assignments and there was also an increase in the number of new matters which we had found out in connection with other assignments and arrangements.

Towards the month of October, 1943, and in accordance with instructions from your Organization that activities should be reduced through special and provisional considerations, the personal situation of those who had been principally occupied with these matters was changed when they took on their employment which took up all their time. Then thereports rested with the members of our group, and the results of this were seen immediately as there were no persons who had sufficient time to develop them properly.

In our opinion, it is evident that while persons who had sufficient time were available, things went well

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CONFIDENTIAL

well enough, and when the situation of the persons was changed the services, and above all, the reports declined.

We now receive orders to intensify our collaboration with your Organization. Reasons of discipline and personal conviction oblige us to think seriously of a plan which affords us adequate means for efficiently and which also obliges us to accept responsibility for its results.

We have previously consulted with your Organization as to whether the volume of specific reports which you may request is such as to justify using persons giving all their time to this work. Calculating on such a basis and also on matters which will arise from our initiative in disposing of persons entirely given to these activities and living in their atmosphere, we do not hesitate in binding ourselves as we feel sure that their results will not lessen esteem for the collaboration of the Basque group in Venezuela.

### A. DELEGATION OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT IN VENEZUELA

Before explaining it we wish to point out the situation and influence which the Delegation of the Basque Government has in connection with these services.

The Delegations are the moral and semi-official representation of the Basque Government and President Aguiree among the various Basque groups in America, exercising over all an authority which though not recognized in official or government circles, is not less effective, as has always been shown when the collaboration of a compatriot has been required. In these cases it is always the Delegate, as representative of President Aguirre, who supported by his authority and representation addresses himself to the person concerned.

The Basque Delegation in Venezuela has been functioning since the arrival of the Basque groups in this country in 1939, paying attention to its political and propaganda mission, and giving its compatriots support and protection in a semi-official manner, but not as an accredited diplomatic representation could do. It settles their difficulties about documents, the entry of relatives, immigrants, labor exchange, social aid, etc. The Chief of the Venezuelan Delegation created our present Organization, of which he is the born leader, though for special reasons he delegates his authority to other persons in whom he has confidence. These latter are responsible to him, as he is to President Aguirre.

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There are 14 Delegations in America carrying out their work. They are modestly financed from New York. And this month of May will be the last month in which the Delegation of Caracas will receive its allotment of \$400.

When it is considered that these services are closely bound up with the existence of the Delegation, we feel that the said item of B 1340 (\$400) should be included in the Budget of Expenses which will appear farther on.

#### B. ORGANIZATION IN THE INTERIOR OF VENEZUELA

At present we have installed Agents provided with suitable instructions at the following places: Maracay, Valencia, Puerto Cabello, Trujillo, Mérida, San Cristobal, Rubio, Tucupita, Ciudad Bolivar, Coro, and Carenero, and there is a likelihood that they will soon be established at Maracaibo, Cumana, and La Guaira.

Their mission is to give information about specific matters which may be requested by the Basque Headquarters, Caracas; to give information about such matters as may come to their knowledge in connection with these services; and to give information about such persons (Germans or other nationalities) as they consider to be principal subversive agents.

All communications with these persons will be taken care of and received through out mediation, and the care of seeing to it that reports on these matters will be made regularly will remain in our hands.

#### Estimate for this service:

Special for Puerto Cabello . . . . B 50 monthly for all the others, as compensation for expenses of postage, telegrams, gifts, etc. . . . . . . . . . 200 monthly

#### C. HOTELS

with the object of intercepting telephone calls and correspondence, and should the need arise for searches, we have thought of the suitability of introducing persons into some Hotels which offer great interest and where at present we have no access.

- 3 -

CONFOENTIAL

We have also considered the idea of being able, through a skillful plan and replying on necessary help, to channel into some chosen hotels those travelers from aborad who are accustomed to arrive without a fixed destintation and to stay at hotels which are recommended by the personnel of the transportation companies.

An arrangement with to have these reservations made with to supply us with this valuable assistance.

For the Spanish ships we have fixed on the property of a friend of ours who on former occasions did us interesting services. Inspires some confidence in enemy circles (Germans and Spaniards).

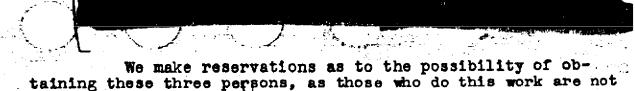
For this purpose would disseminate propaganda on the Spanish ships, distributing cards, etc. Furthermore, it could offer the passengers a service

but the deficit would have to be covered. It is our opinion that the greater part of the passengers would avail themselves of this service, including those who originally planned to go to another hotel, since finding such a convenience at hand, logically they would take advantage of it even if it were only for a short time. X

At present we have contacts in the following hotels!

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Estimate for this service:

#### D. SPANISH SHIPS

numerous in our group.

A contact has already been established in We shall try to establish a contact in The instructions given these persons request information about suspected passengers and crewmembers, principally those coming to Venezuela. General observation over other activities, especially jewels and diamonds.

We must as soon as possible determine exactly how reports are to be picked up. We have at our disposal one person

but this method is not very safe and it would be preferable to look for another more suitable way.

E. CARACAS Principal Organization

The same group of ten persons will function. They will be directed by Onlawill contact your Organization.

He will deal specifically with contacts of the Basque organization in the interior of Venezuela; hotels; and Spanish ships. He will direct the reports and investing

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gations requested, determine procedures and negotiations, and will choose the persons who are to perform them. He will submit to your Organization all kinds of suggestions derived from the reports coming from Caracas and the interior of the country as well as others of his own initiative, and he will directly look after the more important special services, serious matters, or those which may involve acts of violence or risk.

Upon this Organization will fall responsibility for the efficiency of all the services, as well as the discretion with which they are to be done. It will have its places for the sending of correspondence, meetings, making of contacts, a etc.

Estimate:

The same previous allotment of Furthermore, the usual allotment of XX

P 1000.

200.

## F. CARACAS Reports and Investigations

In agreement with the opinion stated previously concerning the efficiency of these services provided that they are entrusted to persons exclusively occupied with these matters, and also referring to the impression of your Organization about sufficient matters to keep these persons active, we have scrupu ously chosen two persons, whose descriptions are as follows:

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He is a very intelligent person and of brilliant social standing, enthusiastic, discreet, and absolutely reliable. He may be highly useful for reports about important persons or groups. In addition to specific assignments entrusted to him, he will have as a general assignment surveillance over He will also frequent Spanish circles. He will be unaware of all the other matters of our group and will contact only one person of our group. He has accepted the appointment, but in this matter we have to point out that

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we must offer him some assurance that in case he decides to end this matter, he can count on some compensation to cover his expenses during a reasonable period, or what would be better some support in order to obtain other employment soon.

He has a good cover because simultaneously with his employment
He can pretend to increase this work in order to justily his means of support.

Estimate:

Monthly allotment foreseen

B 900.



Estimate: Monthly allotment foreseen

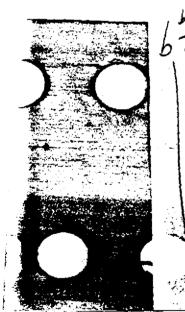
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G. COMMUNIST CIRCLES

In the choice of the above-mentioned for work as an informant we have been influenced to a great extent by our desire to introduce some person into the Communist ranks, a slow and difficult task which requires much tact, but which if it can be accomplished would be very interesting in the future.

a person of sound democratic formation and of absolute reliability, politically belongs to a slightly lefti group within the Basque movement. In our country there exist two distinctly patriotic Basque groups, whose existence is all reflected in Venezuela. The more numerous (90%) is composed of Christian Democrats. President Aguirre belongs to this group. The other group (10%) of liberal tendencies rejects church membership as a political doctrine, though the majori of the members of this group personally are practicing



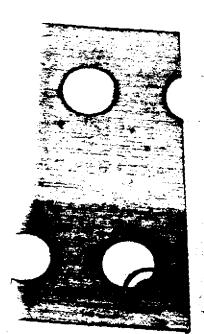
It happens that in this group of persons of dis-/
tinctly democratic formation for example) are confused
with others who without being exactly close to Communism have
allowed themselves to be influenced by its doctrines. For a
allowed themselves to be influenced by its doctrines. For a
member of this groupit would be much easier to pretend a veering
towards Communism than for one of ours, who are rather too well
defined as contrary to its doctrines.

For this reason we have determined to use for these services, considering him for the future as the most suitable to insinuate himself into Communist circles. He offers also the advantage of being worker, viewed in those ranks with less suspicion than those of other professions.

He has some oratorical gifts which make mim outstanding as a person with possibilities as a leader, which he would like to be.

Today we would not dare propose that mission to him, but we believe that if he is used now for services of information (which moreover he will accomplish well) within a few months we will be able to approach the othermatter successful months we will be able to approach the othermatter successful feeling sure that we will have found the most suitable person among those of the Basque group in Venezuela.

We venture to assert that the plan described fulfil the recommendation of our Chiefs to offer the greatest assistance of which our Organization is capable. We propose to utilize the cooperation of our compatriots to the fullest extent possible and in this we are decidedly optimistic, as all the assistance required for these services has always been forthcoming on an ample and magnificent style.



CON DENTIAU

CONFIDENTIAL July 21, 1944 The American Embassy OTHERWIS Caracas, Venezuela John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Subject: Resque Organisation; Venesuela Administrative Reference is made to your letter of June 3, 1944, setting forth the results of your conferences with the representatives of the Basque Organization in connection with the plan submitted by that organisation for their operations in Venezuela. Your observations in connection with the plans submitted by the Basque Organization have been carefully noted, and it appears that for the most part your observations have been well taken. However, the Bureau is not in complete agreement with your idea that the Basques can be of little service to your office except a outlined in your letter. For your information, the Bureau has made no agreements with the Busque Organization in New York concerning payments to be made for the services of the -local Basques. The Bureau is of the opinion that the Basque Organization can be "" developed into a valuable adjunct to your office in covering intelligence activities. For this reason, it is believed that you should seriously endeavor to arrive at a suitable financial agreement with the Basque organisation and to develop this organisa tion into a valuable informant group, as you know the Basques in Venezuela have in the past rendered some valuable services and are undoubtedly in a position to continue to render such services. The Bureau desires that you give your personal attention to this matter and advise the Bureau as to the results of your negotiations with the Basque Organization in Venesuela, particularly in regard to the financial arrangement which you make. PR DHIDANG COMMUNICATIONS SECTION JUL 22 1944 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INTERTIGATION Declassify of CADR

Bogota Colembia July 8, 1944

ALL INFORMATION COMPANY HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE CHUNN OTHERWICE

Director, FBI

COLOMBIAN ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

Declassify on: OADR 5-18

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Reference is made to your letter of May 3, 1944, to at Havana, Cuba, a copy of which was furnished to the office of the Legal Attaché at Bogotá, concerning the desire of the Basque Government in exile in New York City to have its representatives in Latin America work exclusively as informants for the Bureau. There was also transmitted with your letter a memorandum reflect-ing the results of an interview between Bureau representatives and the Basque Delegates in New York City, and another memorandum reflecting the successful use of the Basque Intelligence Service by the Legal Attaché in Caracas, Venezuela. I was instructed to advise the Bureau at an early date as to the arrangements made with the local Basque representatives and also to give my opinion as to the usefulness of the organization as informants.

Immediately after the receipt of the above instructions, a number of attempts were made to contact

These attempts were unsuccessful until Jupe 24, 1944, when he, of his own volition, came to my office. He stated that he had been out of Bogota on a trip to ! Caracas, Venezuela between May 28th and June 8th. He advised that this trin was made after he had received a letter from

had ritten him asking that he travel to Caracas to discuss matters regarding the Basque Intelligence set-up in Colombia. said that upon receipt of the above letter from to Mr. IRALA in New York, requesting authorization for the trip. should travel to Caracas IRALA replied that he thought as soon as possible in order to confer with on matters which had been discussed with the latter when he was in New York during April and May, 1944.

RECORDED & INDEXED stated that while in Venezuela he had the program being followed by the Basque Delegation there where

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told that it was the desire of the organization in New York that similar arrangements be made where possible for the Basque organization throughout Latin America to cooperate closely and exclusively with the Bureau.

stated he would be glad to assist in every way in setting up an effective plan of cooperation in Colombia. He said that in the past the Basque organization here has furnished information to the office of the Military Attache in the American Embassy, but that this had not proven very satisfactory because of unsatisfactory supervision and that at present the Basques have terminated their relations with the office of the Military Attache. It was agreed that Assistant to the Legal Attache, and the writer would visit office on June 26th to work out the details of the plan of cooperation.

On June 26th presented to us a memorandum setting out matters on which the Basque organization could be expected to furnish information. These items are being set out below:

#### I - General Information about:

- (a) The Spanish Group, member by member, with all the personal and political details that are desired regarding the Franquista Sector and the Republican Sector.
- (b) The political situation (internal and international), and economic information of Colombia, especially that which appertains to the relations with the United States and to Panamerican affairs: Panamericanism, Latin Americanism, (Bloque de los Cien), Indo Americanism, the Monroe Doctrine and Protestantism.
- (c) The Nazi groups and native and European sympathizers; their members, their organizations, their activities, the control of their properties and their propagands.
- II -The Colombia and Foreign Clergy, their affiliation and activity
- III Vigilance of the Coast of Colombia, Guajira and Venezuela.
  - IV -Vigilance of the Colombian Pacific Coast and Panama, the Gulf of Darien and of the Maritime and Land Frontiers of Colombia and Panama.
    - V Vigilance of Restaurant Asturias of Bogota, where all Colombian Falangists gather.







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stated that he, personally, would head the Intelligence organization and that he believed it would be most effective if all our contacts were made through him. He further stated that approximately six people will be regularly employed in the work and that from time to time other members of the Basque group can be called upon to furnish specific information.

Regarding financial arrangements. Stated that the agent who will be engaged in furnishing the type of information set out in points I and II above, should have a fixed remuneration of \$250 Colombian pesos (approximately \$145 U.S.) per month. Point III will be covered by

will not receive any fixed salary but will be reimbursed from time to time for expenses incurred in the work.
In order to carry out the vigilance suggested in point IV above,
tated that

Pacific Coast, suggested that for \$500 Colombian suggested that for \$500 Colombian pesos (\$290 U.S.) monthly, the services of could be obtained. Will be discussed later in this letter. There will be no fixed salary for the persons covering the remaining three points mentioned above. However, from time to time it will be necessary to remunerate them for any extraordinary expenses incurred.

advised that through May, 1944, the local group had been receiving a draft for \$150 (U.S.) each month from the Basque Delegation in New York City. During the first part of June, who te a letter to Mr. IRALA in New York, requesting that this monthly allotment be raised to \$250 per month. said that he understands from a letter of instructions received from President AGUIRRE in New York that in the future this amount, which is used for the maintenance and activities of the Basque organization in Colombia, will be naid to them by the representatives of the Bureau. Also stated that the cost of his recent trip to Caracas was \$550 Colombian pesos (approximately \$315 U.S.)

On July 2, 1944, a radiogram from Bogota to Washington advised the Bureau of preliminary arrangements made with and also requested authorization to pay an amount to cover the expense of his trip to Caracas and asked the Bureau to advise Bogota if any agreement had been made with Mr. IRALA to the effect that the Bogota office would pay the local Basque organization the amount of \$250, which was not received during June from Basque headquarters in New York City



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670 671) on July 5, 1944, the Bureau replied that there were no objections to paying for travel expenses to Venezuela and that no agreement had been made with IRALA concerning the amount of payments to the local group or as to the time when payment would begin. The Bureau's radiogram further stated the amount of monthly payments and date on which payments are to start were left to my judgment.

Regarding the Bureau's attention is directed to letters from Bogota dated October 22, 1943 and December 7, 1943, entitled "Colombian Undercover Operative of Civil Intelligence, Panama," wherein full information was set forth on the identity and activities of this individual.

For

that we would not be agreeable to using the services of in any way.

Be stated that although is a smart individual and could doubtless provide interesting information.

by not employing the services of the original financial plan presented by will be reduced by \$500 pesos (approximately \$290 U.S.) monthly.

In recapitulation, the financial agreement between the Basque Delegation in Colombia and this office at present is as follows:

We will pay the Caracas (approximately \$315 U.S.) and we will pay \$150 (U.S.) to cover the regular monthly allotment formerly received by the local organization from New York, but which was not received during the month of June;

II - Beginning July 1, we will pay the organization \$250 monthly; \$145 (U.S.) monthly will be paid to the agent covering points I and II mentioned above; we will pay any other expenses that might be incurred by members of the organization in furtherance of their work for us.

is an extremely intelligent man about

years of age.

It has been arranged that on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:15 P.M., a representative of this office will meet him at his office for the purpose of discussing the work being done by his group. Leads will be given him on 5x5 cards, duplicates of which are retained in our office. His reports are prepared in Spanish and will be translated in eyr office for inclusion in reports or memorandum for the file.

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has demonstrated an intense interest in our work and it is believed that we will be able to use him and his group to great advantage in obtaining much better informant coverage in Colombia.

610 Very truly yours,

Legal Attache

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HEREIN IS U . Director, Pederal I For your information, there is attached a copy of a letter dat 19hb, from the Legal Attache's office in Caracas, setting forth the results of conferences had with the representatives of the Basque Organization in Venezuela econograing the submission of a detailed plan for effective use of the Basque Intelligence Service. The Legal Attache has also set forth his observations pencerning the plan and has indicated that he feels that the Basque can be of little service to Durosu representatives except as set out in his letter. The Legal Attache has been advised that the Bureau does not entirely agree with his attitude that the Basque can be of little service to his will and he has been instructed to endeavor to work out a satisfactory, both financial and otherwise with the Basque arganization THE COME Tolson L. A. Tam LLagh DAINUNICATIONS SECTION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Legal Attache Buenos Aires, Argentina June 20, 1944

Director, FBI

Declassify on: OADRS-18-88 Dear Sir 267-468

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BASQUE ORGANIZATION

Argentina Administrative

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of May 3, 1944 regarding this organization and an agreement arrived at in the United States for its use by the Bureau in Latin America. accordance with instructions therein, I contacted JOSE MARIA DE LASARTE, representative in Argentina, and handed to him the two letters from Basque President, AGUIRRE, which were forwarded to explain the new arrangement.

At the first meeting on May 26, the meaning of the letters was discussed, such as the instructions of AGUIRRE that the Basques here should continue relationship with the office of and their conduct with them should be the same as in the past, but that further investigation in various fields was to be undertaken in cooperation with this office. It was specified that information which has in the past should continue to be given them, copies also being given my office, but that information of any sort which we should give the Basques or developed by the latter at our request would not be revealed to any other other office than this. These terms were

understood both from the letters and cur conversation of DE LASARTE advised at the first meeting that he pelieve effective work could be done in conjunction with this office: he seemed pleased at the prospect. After a few days : 110 12 14 194 the matter he advised that he assessed the needs of the Basques in Argentina at \$2,000 (U.S.currency) per month, money which her would spend on work for this office exclusively and only in country. He gave this, he said, as the best estimate he could make at this time, although an appraisal made later after the arrangement had been working for some time might result in a different sum. DE LASARTE stated that he believed this sum would meet with AGUIRRE'S approval were he here to assess the needs of his organization in Argentina in the light of their doing most effective work of the type contemplated. In discussing the way in which this money would be spent, he said that some would be used for strengthening his organizational ties in Argentina, in this way increasing the number of people who might be used as informants by them and gaining stronger Basque allegiance, calculated to be of assistance to us in intelligence work. organizational work has not been carried on to the extent contem-

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plated in the past because of failure to receive regular sums of money from AGUIRRE. Part of the money would also be used in making adequate compensation to those employed in connection with our work. As an example of how lack of funds have hampered their work in the past, DE LASARTE said that he has not been able to have a private secretary although he needs one badly.

Judging from AGUIRRE'S statements appearing in referenced Bureau letter

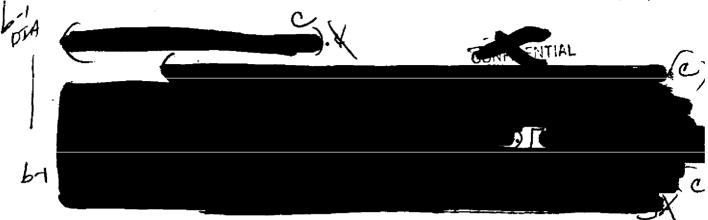
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On June 2, 1944, DE LASARTE informed this office that

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6/20/44



There appear to be several reasons why this office should enter into the arrangement contemplated with the Basques here. In the first place, DE LASARTE himself is in charge of the Basque organization in Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia, and it is not believed that the Bureau's program of cooperation with them in those countries would progress far if negotiations with regard to this country first failed. It is noted likewise that he is to make a trip to Chile to assist in arrangements there. from this, it is thought that in other countries of Latin America where the Eureau is to work with Basques, relations might be impaired once it became known that the attempt in Argentina was unsuccessful. Secondly, there is the consideration that Argentina has a totalitarian government at present which gives no indication of weakening and which may be of greater concern to the United Stat in the future than at present. With this in mind, it is believed that a development of the Basques, counting several hundred thousand potential members in this country, should be made in such a way that activity might be carried on even though Argentine. United States relations were broken. Thirdly, there is the fact that, as the Bureau has been informed, numerous arrests of informar of this office have occurred and more may take place in the future; in this situation the acquiring of additional informants seems advisable 🛂

In view of the latter considerations, DE LASARTE was informed on June 8 that this office was agreeable to entering into the arrangement as stipulated and at \$2,000 (U.S. currency) per month. On that date, the first payment was made, \$1,000, and it was agreed that monthly payments would be considered as starting as of that date. No attempt was ever made to bargain with DE LASAR as to the amount to be paid for the following reasons: it is believed that the latter was sincere in arriving at the sum named as the amount needed and if a lesser sum were given the relationship between DE LASARTE and this office would not be the kind contemplate by those who arrived at the agreement in the United States, nor work to one which could be exploited to the Bureau's advantage as

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contemplated by referenced Bureau letter. Nothing definite has been stated regarding the duration of the payments to be made.

Moreover, negotiations with DE LASARTE on the basis of the fiction that in the last analysis, the funds used by DE LASARTE have their origin with AGUIRRE in New York. It was not possible to determine whether DE LASARTE actually believes this fiction to be a fact. However, the reasons given in Bureau letter of reference for relying on the fiction seem ample. At present, there seems no need to rely on the fiction. However, if our situation worsens very much and it becomes necessary to withdraw our representatives here, it will be most convenient to be able to rely heavily on the Basques who will be much more likely to work if they feel they are working for AGUIRRE than if they suppose they are merely paid professionals.

DVA

believed that this matter should be left undecided and each expansion dealt with as it comes up. This matter may serve to the advantage of this office. DE LASARTE has stated his belief that the relationships involved will work out over the course of time and that difficulties will not ensue.

Since the agreement was made here on June 8, the Basques have turned in some information exclusively for this office. General plans have been made for setting up the Basques for most effective work and it is intended that as this relationship development detailed plans will be made for the Basque set-up for performintelligence work. DE LASARTE has seemed willing to accept all suggestions made and seems anxious to work them out to the best advantage of this office.

Although individual Basque leaders have in the past been given confidential numbers, neither DE LASARTE nor the whole organization as presently headed by him has received such a number. The Basques as presently set up will be designated in the future as confidential Informant.

There is being forwarded with this letter an envelope addressed to President AGUIRRE. It contains some copies of memoranda on information furnished to this office which DE LASARTE asked be forwarded to AGUIRRE as of interest to the latter and also a private letter to the latter concerning the arrangements made for working with this office.

The above information appearing in this letter has been set forth in detail in an effort to inform the Bureau as thoroughly

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as possible of the relationships of the Basques wi organizations in Argentina and with this office as the agreement reached with them by this office and the various factors considered in arriving at that agreement.

FRANCIS E. CROSBY Legal Attaché

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson\_ L EDGAR HOOVER Mr. E. A. Tar DIRECTOR Mr. Clegg Mr. Coiley\_ reau of Investigation Mr. Glavin\_ United States Department of Justice Mr. Ladd Mr. Nichols Washington, D. C. Mr. Rosen\_ Mr. Tracy July 18, 1944 Classified by Mr. Acers Declassify on: GADR ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED 5-18-88 Mr. Carson HEREIN IS, UNIL STIFFED Mr. Harbo 267.468 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LAUD Mr. Hendon CTRERWICE Mr. Mumford RE: BASQUE (ORGANIZATION Mr. Starke It will be recalled that through the New York headquarters erece Mr. Quinn Tan Tele. Room of the Basque organization arrangements have been made for the Bureau Mr. Nease to utilize the Basques throughout Latin America as informants. Miss Beahm Legal Attaches have been advised of these arrangements and appropriate Miss Gandy\_ use is being made of the Basques. The main problem with reference to utilizing the Basques was in Argentina DLA  ${
m I\!I}$ Appropriate instructions were sent both to the head of the Basques in Buenos Aires and to the Legal Attache in Buenos Aires. Brookeds in red para 2 and Brackets en Para 3 Classifical The Legal Attache advises that he has had a conference with the Lasarte, but head of the Basques in Buenos Aires, and an arrangement has been made that the kett Basques immediately begin to work for the Legal Attache. They are to extend 10-16 their organization among the several hundred thousand Basques in Argentina in order to more fully and completely fulfill our needs. The Lasarte has already begun giving to the Legal Attache copies of all the reports The Legal Attache stated that a complete survey reference to the work desired by the Bureau and that De lesarte has sublitted a The Legal Attache believed that this is a resonable estimate and plan which will necessitate the expenditure of ab OF VICTORY BUY WAR COMES DESTROYED R 2 15 NOV RETURN DIRECTLY TO SIS FILES



De Lasarte is very sincere in his efforts to get the organization functioning, particularly since it appears that it may be possible that diplomatic relations will cease between Argentina and the United States. The Legal Attache strongly recommends that we enter into this arrangement with De Lasarte because of the numerous arrests of informants which have occurred making it essential that our efficience additional reliable informants because of the possibility that relations may be broken and the Basques can be utilized to procure information in the absence of our representatives and get it out of Argentina through their own cources, and because the Buenos Aires organization also controls the Basque organization in Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Chile.

As will be recalled Inspector Gurnea stated that we had insufficient informants in Argentina, this of course being due to the persecution by argentine authorities which has occurred in the past. The State Department has advised us that we should make preparations for any eventualities including war with Argentina. It appears therefore that the Bureau should go to great lengths to secure additional competent informants immediately to take care of any contingency. It is most likely that this need will continue over a long period in view of the unfriendly attitude of the Argentine Government regardless of whether we actually break off relations with them. It is therefore believed that we should go along with the Legal Attache at least for a trial period in order to try to make full use of the Basques in Argentina.

ACTION

There is attached a letter to the Legal Attache advising it will be satisfactory to utilize the Basques as suggested and instructing that he keep in close touch with the situation and keep the Bureau advised as to whether they are producing satisfactorily in view of the amount to be paid to them.

Respectfully,

C. H. Carson

Attachment

Brackets in Paral in Red remains (u) per state Jept Retter DTD 11-5-91



SADTED 64-23/19-40

SECRET - AIR COURIER

Date: Buly 20, 1944

The American Embassy Busness Aires, Argentina

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

Subject; Basque Organisation

Beference is made to your letter of June 20, 19th, in the above entitled matter. It will be satisfactory for you to utilize the services of the Basque Organization as outlined in your letter? You should, however, make every effort to extend your coverage through them and to make full use of their services in view of the current need for additional informants; in Argentina and the possibility that it may be necessary for all of the Bureau representatives to depart from Argentina. You should closely supervise their work in order to determine whether they produce in accordance with the amounts paid to them and keep the Bureau advised in order that appropriate arrangements may be made to discontinue their services in the event this is considered necessary.

It is believed that full utilisation of the Basque Organization, however, will be extremely productive and that they can be utilised for all types of investigations desired by the Bureau. You should from time to time advise the Bureau as to the activities of the Basques and as to the manner in which their services are being utilised. Any problems which arise should be referred to the Bureau in order that they may be taken up with the Basque headquarters in New York.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

WAILED

JULY 1 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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228

Buenos Aires, Argentina July 12, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE/ORGANIZATION Argentina Administrative

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are two envelopes containing correspondence which a representative of the above organization in Argentina wishes to transmit to José Antonio de Aguirre, Basque President, in New York City.

It is accordingly requested that the Bureau transmit these two envelopes containing administrative and informative data to the above named person.

~267-468

Very truly yours,

Francis E. Crosby, Legal Attaché.

200-24 Enclosures - 2

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EX - 50

52 AUG 26 1944

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED **X**JUASSIFIED HEREIM IS U EXCENT THE **CTHERE!** BASQUE ORGANIZATION Re: CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE Dear Sir: Declassiff on: OADR Reference is made to Bureau radiogram dated May 31, 1944, granting authority to the Office of the Legal Attaché at Habana, Cuba to employ the services of the Basque organization for a trial period of three months and authorizing payments to the extent of not more than \$1,000 monthly. On Nine 1, 1944 a plan was put into effect whereby the Basque delegate, would each be paid the sum of \$250 per month in return for their full time services. In addition, each of the above-named individuals was to receive up to \$100 to be used by them for expenses incurred while conducting investigations for this office. Contact with the Basque organization in the past had been maintained solely with Pand it was agreed that continue in this capacity. Besides employing and two other assistants, were also employed, upon official request, at a monthly salary of \$150 each. advised me personally that this office could expect a great deal more work and a tremendous increase in coverage, all of which would be most beneficial to this office. As the trial period of this project progressed it became increasingly evident that the expansion in Basque intelligence coverage was not proportionate to the increase

Re: Basque Organization

Habana, Cuba July 12, 1944

in the amount of payments made to the Basques and after several conferences with

has not devoted his full time to intelligence activities since the inception of the new working arrangement described in my letter of May 25, 1944. He continues to interest himself primarily

Re: Basque Organization -

Habana, Cuba July 12, 1944 CONFIDENT

670 670 In view of the fact that no useful purpose can be served by the retention as Basque delegate of in this area it is recommended that the Bureau's Fraison agent with Dr. JOSE ANTONIO de AGUIRRE, Basque President, be requested to discuss this matter with Dr. AGUIRRE in order that can be substituted by a Basque with more ability and interest in intelligence matters.

has assured us that there will be no diminution of coverage in the event and his assistant are dropped from the payroll.

In view of the delicacy of this matter and the inadvisability of severing official connections with until such time as

expedite the discussion of this matter with President
DE Aguirre in order that a successor may be named in the
immediate future and new working conditions agreed upon.
It is emphasized that the position of delegate and is not aware of
our plan to request the substitution of the consonant with Bureau policy the recommendation might be
made that the be named Basque delegate for
this area. It is felt that is the Basque
best qualified along intelligence lines in this country.

In the event the removal of from the position as delegate is impossible an alternative plant

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Re: Basque Organization

Habana, Cuba July 12, 1944

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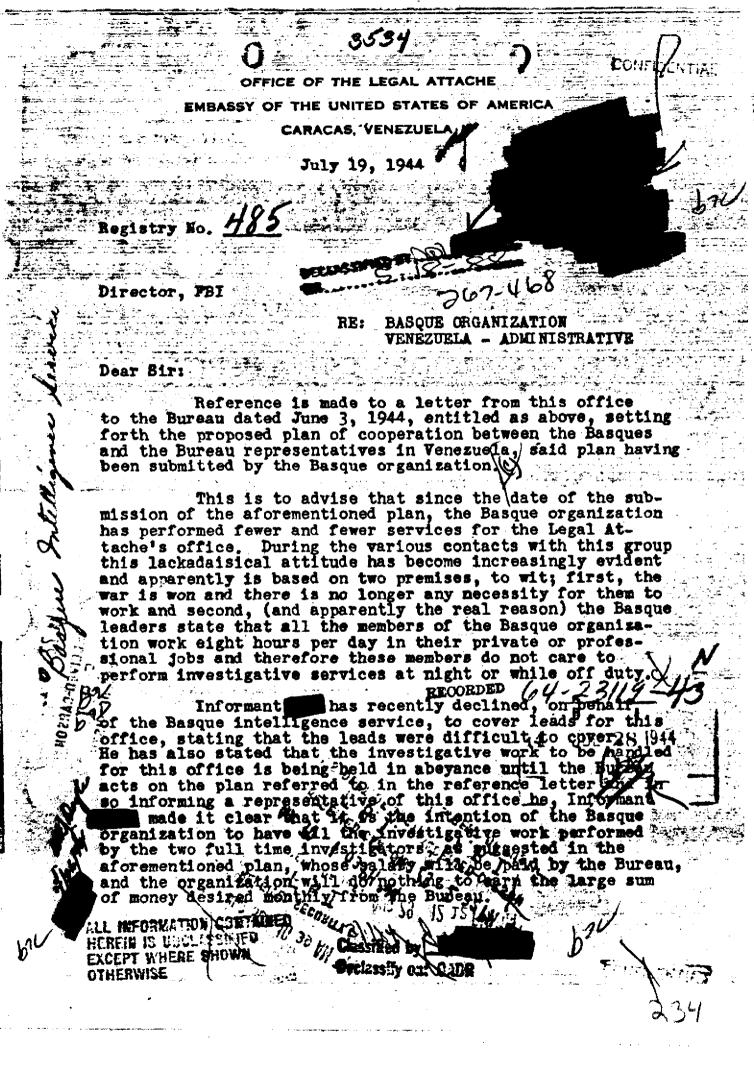
suggested is that President DE AGUIRRE be requested to direct a letter to informing him that he is to cease his intelligence activities immediately and to place full responsibility for that work in the hands of If, on the other hand, President DE and agrees to name delegate, it is recommended that the appointment of the purely tentative and be for a probationary period of three months. It is felt in this way this office will be in a position to exercise close supervisory powers over and will be able to control him in that way.

In view of the fact that this office desires to discontinue payments to and effective august 1, 1944 and since this office does not desire to take any action in the premises prior to official notification to from President DE AGUIRRE, the Bureau is requested to expedite this patter with the Basque headquarters in New York City.

Very truly yours,

Agal Attache

TOTAL ATTENTION



Director
BASQUE ORGANIZATION
July 19, 1944

Inasmuch as the Basque organization is not presently performing services of value to this office and evidently does not intend to do so, and since it still expects to receive its monthly payment of \$360.00, to be paid under the old plan presently in use, the Bureau is requested to advise this office by cable whether it is the Bureau's desire to continue the monthly payment of \$360.00, even though services of value are not being performed. This request is being made so that this office will not take any step which might prejudice the Bureau's program in other countries in South America.

Very truly yours.

Jegal Attache

36-2

Town DE TI

CONFIDENTIAL

SAC, New York - Attention ID, Joress Day

July 26, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Hurana of Investigation

Basque Organisation - Latin Amrican Matters

There are strached letters from the Logal Attache at Havena, Onbe deted July 12 and from the Logal Attache at Graces, Venesuals deted July 19, with reference to the willisation of the local hasque erganization in connection with the Burean's work.

It is desired that you advise the Bureau as soon as possible concerning the problems set forth in the letter from Savana, Onto in order that the legal Attache may be advised. The legal Attache inchrease has been instructed that he should work out a plan of payment to the Basques based on their value locally, of source, taking into consideration their potential value. He was also instructed to advise the Bureau of any plan worked out in order that the Basque headquarters in New York may be advised.

It is suggested that you discuss these methers with your contact in the Besque headquarters and that the Bureau be apprepriately sivined.

ODITATION SECTION

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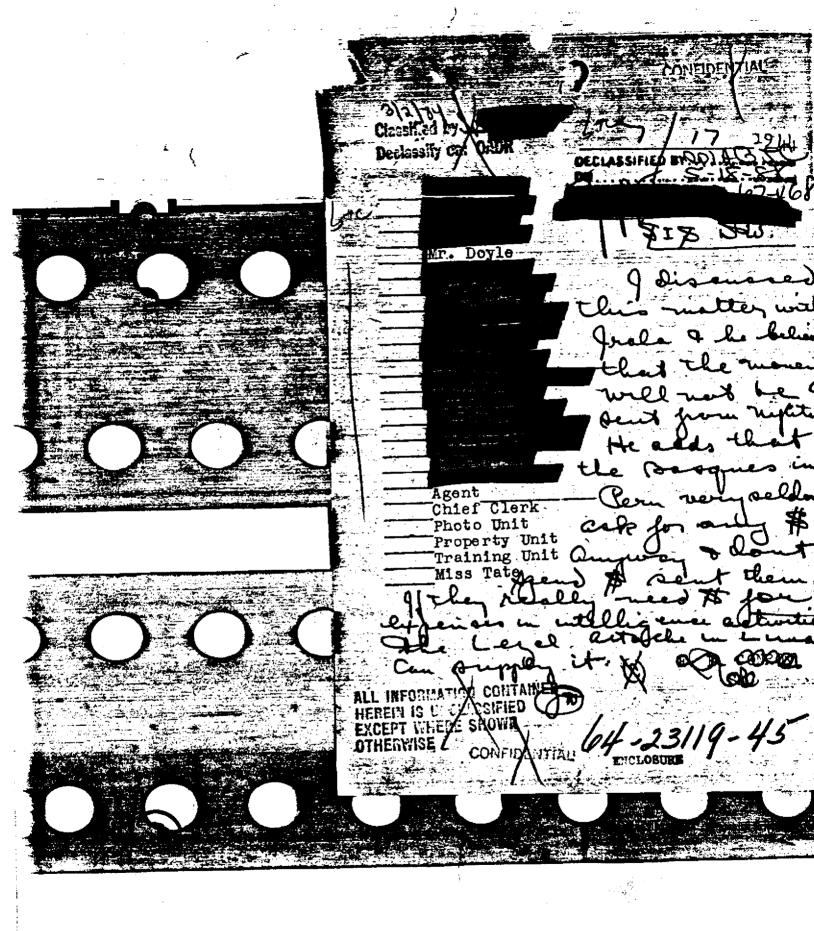
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Section 55	<u>.</u>	Section 552a
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56 AUG 28 1944 358



# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE CARAGAS VENEZUELA

CARACAS - YENEZUELA July 29, 1944 Registry No. PERSON VENEZUELA ADMINISTRATIVE CONF. INFT. NF. INFT. Attached hereto is a letter from Informant to Mr. ANTONIO DE IRALA, Secretary to President AGUIRRE, Rregident of the Basque Government in exile. Inasmuch as the contents of this letter, which is being transmitted herewith, deal with the use of Informant possible emergency assignment in Argentina, it Is requested that this letter be translated and that immediately thereafter the original be forwarded to the addressee in New York City. Very truly yours 53AUG 161944195

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New York, New York July 29, 1944 Herein is EXCEPT I CHE SHOWN Attention: 670 BASQUE ORGANIZATION CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE Dear Sir: Reference is made to the Aetter of the Legal Attache in Havana, Cuba dated July 12, 1944 to the Bureau a copy of which was furnished Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS Office under Bureau cover letter dated July 26, 1944. Please be advised that on July 27, 1944 Mr. Doyle conferred with ANTONIO IRALA relative to the administrative problem existing in Cuba with respect to the Basque delegation in that country. Mr. IRALA advised that he would recommend to Dr. AGUIRRE, Basque President, that letters be forwarded 670 to Cuba to instructing both of 670 these individuals that immediately all Basque intelligence work in Cuba was President AGUIRRE was present during Mr. Doyle's to be handled by conference with IRALA and he stated that he would forward these letters immediately through the New York SIS office to the two Basques in Cuba. The foregoing information was furnished Supervisor phonically on July 28, 1944 so that the Legal attache in Havana could be advised before August 1, 1944 of the action taken by the Basque headquarters in New York City This was done in accordance with the request of the Legal Attache in Havana. A letter was received July 29, 1944 addressed to being attached to this letter for delivery to Havana, Cuba. Apparently one letter is to be written by the Basque to settle this Cuban problem and the letter is being sent to the nominal head of the Basque delegation in Cuba. Very truly yours, Declassify on CADR nolosure pecial Delivery

Gx64-23119-47 The American Enbassy Havans, Oubs Line in the same of the same of the same of the Front J. Rigar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Dasque Organisation Subject: Oubs Administrative ference is made to your letter of July 12, 1944 regarding your relations with the above-entitled organisation. This matter has been discussed with Antenie Irala, representative of the Basque Government in exile in New York. It was suggested by Dr. Aguirre, the Basque President, and Irala that they would instruct to turn over all Basque intelligence work in Cuba to will be agreeable to them for you to then deal entirely with in connection with investigative matters. There is attached a letter from Aguirre addressed to him to make this arrangement. It is suggested that you deliver this letter to and that the arrangements be made as were suggested in your letter of reference. of ALL INFORMATIONSCOUTAINED HEREIZIS LEVILESIFIED Declassify out CADR EXCEPT ... COMMUNICATIONS SECTION M1chole MAILED 15 3 1944 P.M. Man for Jones Quinn The FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION E DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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CONTIDENTIAL

**Attention**:

July 28.

Hew York, Hew York

BASQUE ORGANIZATION venezurla - alministrativi

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letters of July 21, 1944 and July 26, 1944 addressed to the New York Office for the attention of Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS Office concerning the Basque organisation in Venezuela.

Both letters of reference contained enclosures which were letters to the Bureau from the Legal Attache in Caracas, Venezuela. The letters set out the proposed organisation of the Basque Intelligence in Venezuela together with the criticism of this proposed organisation as outlined by the Legal Attache in Caracas. In addition, the Legal attache stated it was his opinion that the Basque Organization was exhibiting a lackadaisical attitude which was apparently based on the premises that the war was won and that the Basque members would rather work on private jobs than offer their investigative services. G DEFERBE

These letters were discussed on July 27, 1944 by Jerome Doyle with President AGUIRRE of the Basque Republic and ANTONIO IRALA. secretary to the President. It was ascertained that Venezuela Informent has already advised Basque headquarters in New York that he has turned over to the Legal Attache in Caracas a detailed memorandum setting out the planned Basque Organisation in that country. It was suggested by President AGUIRRE that the Basque representative in Venezuela sit down with the Legal Attache of that country and that the Legal Attache tell him what parts of his proposals were acceptable and what parts were not. Mr. IRALA stated that in his opinion the Basques in Venezuela would perform considerable services if they have an actual work plan agreed upon with the Legal Attache's Office. He attributed this to the fact that it is the nature of the Basques to desire to work under an organised plan rather than haphasardly. He added further, that since the plan was submitted\_ either a counter plan by the Legal Attache should be offered to the Basques or the plan itself should be discussed with the Basques and amended according to  ${\tt Q}$ 

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the desires of the Legal Attache. He concluded that once some form of work agreement is arrived at, the Legal Attache's Office will receive beneficial results from the work of the Basques in Venezuela.

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Mr. IRALA was of the opinion that Venezuela Informant was not lackadaisical mor let up his efforts with the thought that the war was already won. He attributes any lack of spirit on the part of the by the fact that the work in Venezuela is not as exciting as it was a year ago, that No. I must accustom himself to the change in page. He stated further that Ho.

These additional plans have served to distract from his work in Venezuela but it is felt by Mr. IRALA that No. desire to assist in the war effort cannot be questioned.

receipt of this information, Mr. IRALA stated that it would be communicated to through official channels.

Mr. IRALA stated that a letter of censure could be written by President AGUIRRE to and the Basques in Venezuela but he felt that until some formal plan of organization was agreed upon between the Legal Attache in Venezuela and the Basques in that country, a letter of censure would be premature and unfair to the Basques in Venezuela.

The substance of the foregoing was brought to the attention of the telephonically on July 28, 1944 and it is set out herewith in detail so that the Bureau might take appropriate action with respect to the entire matter.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Coursey

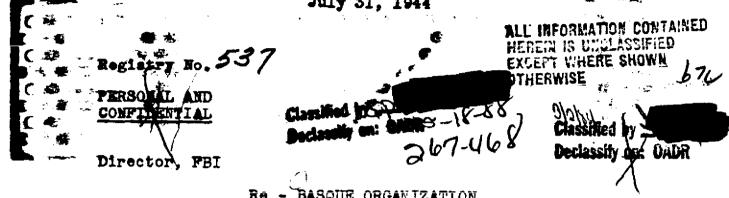
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Confidences

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CARACAS, VENEZUELA



July 31, 1944



BASQUE ORGANIZATION VENEZUELA - ADMINISTRATIVE

brackets in Dara 1.2 configure blue classifier another agencies little DTD (C) DID Reference is made to the letters of this office dirblue classified ected to the Bureau, dated June 3, 1944, and July 19, 1944,

entitled as above. Reference is also made to Bureau cable No. 302, dated July 24, 1944, and to Bureau letter dated June 21, 1944, both entitled as above.

This is to advise that further conferences have been held between representatives of this office and the Basque organization. The plan submitted by the Basques and transmitted to the Bureau, attached to reference letter of June 3, 1944, was discussed. The principal expenditures set out in such plan are as follows: &

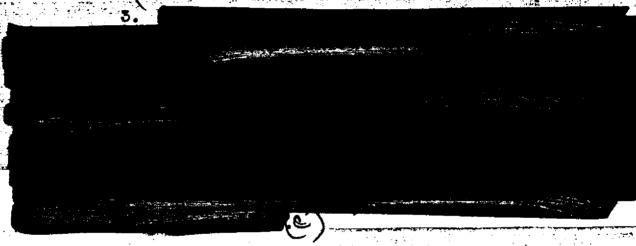
\$400 monthly to Basque delegate in Venezuela. (1) \$300 monthly to Central Intelligence organizaby tion, consisting of \$270 monthly for investigators to handle all investigation formerly handled by Basques for the Legal Attaché's bffice. Total - \$1,030.00 monthly RECORDE During the course of the discussion of the plan with ue representatives, the following conditions became COPIES DESTROYED R2 15 1107 2 1961

Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

1. During the last eight months, the Basque Intelligence group has done very little work for the Legal Attaché's office and it feels that it can perform very few ser vices in the future.

The Basques consider, and have so stated, that their organization has failed to furnish information of value and has failed to be of service to this effice and have expressed a desire to discontinue the arrangement presently in existence.



The only other type of work in which the Basques could be of assistance is in connection with general investigations of Spanish matters. In the past they have failed in this undertaking, as set out in reference letter dated June 3, 1944, and they have so stated. They have further advised they do not desire to carry out such investigations in the future. In this regard the Basques suggest that this office hire from their ranks an investigator, placing him on a salary, to handle all the investigative work, thus leaving the remaining Basques nothing to do.

Since any future work of this organization would be limited to general investigations of Spanish matters, it is desired to point out that there is presently pending in this office only two cases which fall into this category; to wit, SPANISH REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES; SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - S, and INSTITUTO CULTURAL; ET AL; SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - S. Leads



Director, FBI



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in the latter case have been in the possession of the Basque group for six months, and despite all prodding, persuasion, et cetera, no information has been forthcoming and the representatives state they will wait until we hire a Basque investigator, as before set out, and let him do the work. It is believed that this office does not have sufficient investigative work, of a type that the Basques can perform, to keep one full-time, general investigator occupied.

4. In the plan as submitted, the Easques request that the payment of \$300 monthly to the Central Basque organization be continued even though they stated that practically the sole contribution of this committee will be the giving of an occasional word of advice to the full-time investigator. In addition to the above mentioned sum, the Basques desire an additional \$400 monthly

This sum is solely for the living expenses of the Basque Government in Exile functioning in Venezuela.

The desire for the monthly payment of \$400 is based on a purported agreement between the Bureau representatives and SENOR IRALA. Secretary to PRESIDENT AGUIRRE, made in New York City

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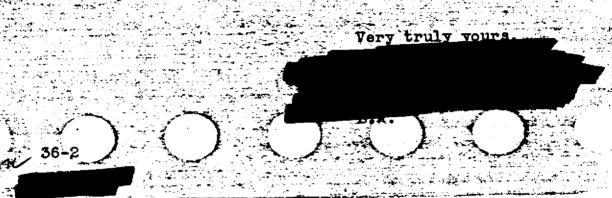
After much discussion of the proposals of the hereinbefore mentioned plan, the Basques agreed to perform all services previously performed, as few as they might be, and to cooperate in every manner possible on the theory that they would receive only \$400 monthly which is to be used to carry on the functions of the Basque Government in Exile

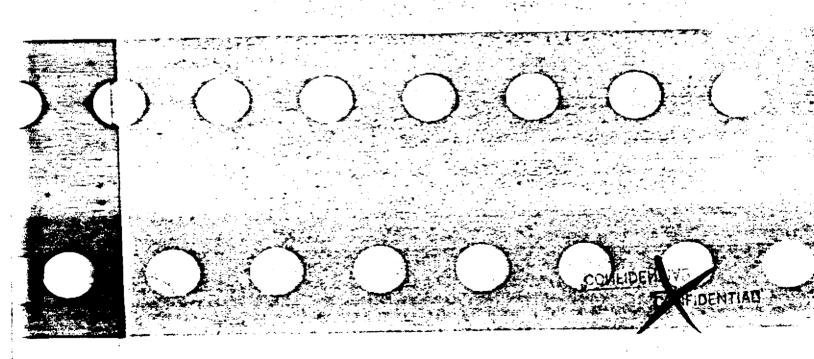
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CONFIDENCE

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It is believed by this office that the Basque Intelligence Group may be of some possible use in the future. It is also believed that unless the payment of \$400 monthly is made to the Basque organization in the furtherance of their understanding of the purported agreement in New York, the friendship and cooperation of the Basques may be lost in Caracas as well as in other countries. Therefore, the Bureau is requested to advise this office by cable if the monthly expenditure of \$400 is authorized to be paid to the Basques for the services) that they will be able to perform, as hereinbefore set out.





The American Embass Caracas, Venezuela Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Basque Organisation Bubject:

> Reference is made to your letter of July 31, 1944, in the above-entitled matter. As you have been repeatedly instructed, you are to work out plan of operation with the Basques and a method of payment which will be in accord with their actual and potential value. The Bureau does not have any special agreement with the Basque headquarters in New York City as to the amount: to be paid to any organisation in the field. It is desired, however, that you advise the Bureau what plan you work out with the Basques in order that their, New York headquarters may be informed, and in order that appropriate action may be taken to insure that the local Basque organisation cooperates with you fully.

The Bureau of course does not desire to pay the Basques any money ----in the event they can be of no value to you; it is still the Bureau's opinion, however, that, based on past experiences with the Basques in Venezuela, they can be utilized not only with reference to investigations of Spanish activities, button investigations of all other matters of interest to you. However, in the event their services are not satisfactory, you should not hesitate to advise the Bureau and to make appropriate arrangements to adjust payments made to them. The Bureau will endeavor to assist you as much as possible by taking up the matter with the Basque headquarters in New York, which will issue instructions to the local organization concerning cooperating with you.

Your previous letters have been discussed with the Basque headquarters, and there is attached hereto a gopy of a letter received from the New York Field Division concerning contacts with them.

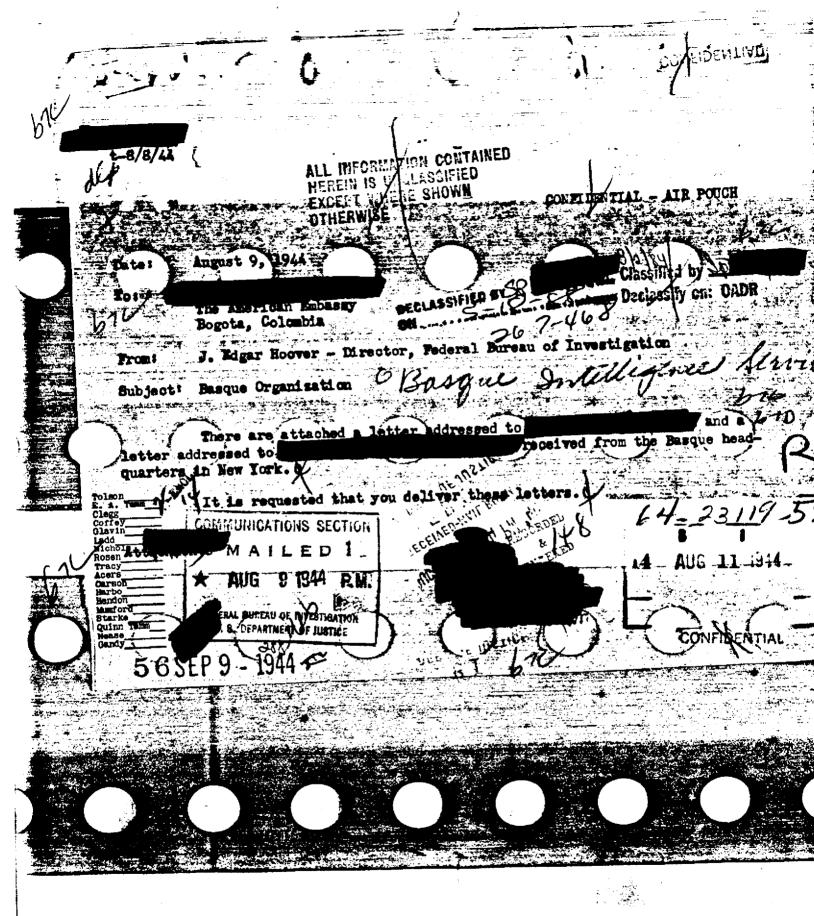
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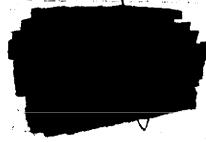
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BASQUE PRESIDENCY



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30 5th Ave., New York, N. Y.

Bogota, Colombi

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

I have read your letter of July 6 and the reports that you enclosed of Movember, February, and the notes of July. I enjoyed them very much because in them you covered very well not only the Colombian situation, but the continental and universal problem of the danger that threatens the democracy and freedom under the heading of order, of the false Christian conception led, in addition, by reactionary men who are not convinced that their world has already passed. All that you do in this sense will have a wholesome effect greater in extension and intensity than you can imagine. The case of Colombia is only an index of the anti-human reactionary, crouched, waiting for his hour. To discover him, wherever he may be, is necessary work and an effective contribution in favor of those at the head of the democracy who in spite of their weaknesses wish to finish him once and for all.

... Your trip to Venezuela has been mutually effective because if you came away comforted, they also were very much satisfied with your visit. The experience that exile brings us will have advantageous effects in the near future in which without the difficulties that circumstances impose on free communication we can be united to communicate with each other the results obtained. I assure you that we should feel great satisfaction and at the same time we shall learn to know how difficult are the causes of liberty but how it can be won day by day when decisively the spirit has taken the definite road to triumph.

I am enclosing a letter that I directed to our good friend In it you will see what is my desire and the request that I am making of high I recognize neither his reasons nor yours in the sense of resignation. Both of you, now more than ever, have the duty of remaining at your posts, increasing y mutual confidence and enthusiasm and thinking that freedom will be won more easily as our aspirations and purposes are presented in block. I consider as not received your letters, and because of your spiritual formation and your wor acquired prestige I do not have to argue with you any more about the request nd purpose that are analoged in these lines. A 1850M 82

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Let us advance in all parts. Here and there. The spirit of our people which acknowledges a brilliant tension will have the translation that it expects in freedom if it is directed with ability and tenacity. For this result that I hope to see with you, the maximum union among the Basques is necessary and the generous contribution of all the forces beginning with those such as you who have won prestige, as president Santos said to my satisfaction a short time ago.

and you are patriots and excellent friends. You must stimulate each other mutual conferring in all matters related to Buzkadi. Even when you received rigorous instructions in definite and delicate necessities, I believe that your good judgment will appreciate in an excellent comrade and collaborator, and he will reciprocate with that discretion shown on many occasions, positions and commissions of great confidence.

Continue your work with the viewpoint of the Fatherland and its freedom Thousands of Basques work for it united in generous strength with the Allied powers to whom perhaps we shall always owe our national existence. Therefore, all sacrifice that we make for the United Nations will be small. Our enemy is against freedom, against democracy calling itself Nazism, Falangism, Argentinism, or whatever it wishes. Wherever an anti-Democratic bud, consequently anti-human, is produced there must the Basques be fighting against it always in the camp of freedom. In this way we are only following our history and fulfilling our duty.

My affectionate greetings to all our compatriots. For you a warm embrace.

Translated by:
August 3, 19th

#### TRANSLATION FROM THE SPANISH

BASQUE PRESIDENCY

30 5th Ave., New York, W.Y. July 31, 1944

Bogota, Colombia

Bear Perea:

you announced to me your purpose of

I received your letter in which you announced to me your purpose of putting into my hands the position of Counselor of the Colombian Delegation. Your reasons - at least those expressed - did not convince me. I am sure that you will respond to the request I am making that you withdraw your resignation.

Today more than ever it is necessary that our governmental organization make a strong appearance of unity. The slightest fissure, although based on good reason, causes damage. In addition to this fact you have gained esteem and prestige by your competence — some days ago I heard with complacency very favorable opinions from President Santos — I think that what he says has basis. Therefore, I do not doubt that you will listen to my request. The and you, understanding each other well, have constituted a representation of the highest category. There is no reason why you should not constitute it in the future. Much more so because perhaps now occasions will be presented suddenly in which it will be necessary to discharge whatever knowledge, friends, or prestige we have been cultivating.

As events move our hour approaches. It is as inexorable as the invasion of Normandy. I must have some motive to assure you in this way. In your advance or retreat, in the perfect or imperfect realization of our purposes in the greater or lesser freedom to attain for our country, we are the ones who have the principal if not the exclusive responsibility. Because our good friend the United Nations, do enough when they open to us the roads that lead to freedom But the march along them is for us to do. If you knew what we have won by presenting a united national front that here they know is the greatest and sames part of Euskadi! Therefore, in the face of the definite accomplishments that are inevitable we must accentuate our unity and with it the firmest will to triumph. I have known you for some time and your friendship honors me. Therefor I know that more than reasoning, unnecessary in your case, will be my request as President and my affection as friend which will convince you. I am sending a copy of this letter to

with the affection of always.

COPIES DECEMBOYED

/s/ (Illegible) RR

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64-23119-55

August 3, 1944

CONFIDENCE

## OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES SANTIAGO CHILE

July 14, 1944

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Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CHILE - ADMINISTRATIVE

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Dear Sir:

There is being furnished herewith a report which has been delivered to this office by the representative in Santiago for the Basque Intelligence Service.

As previously, this is to he delivered in Washington,

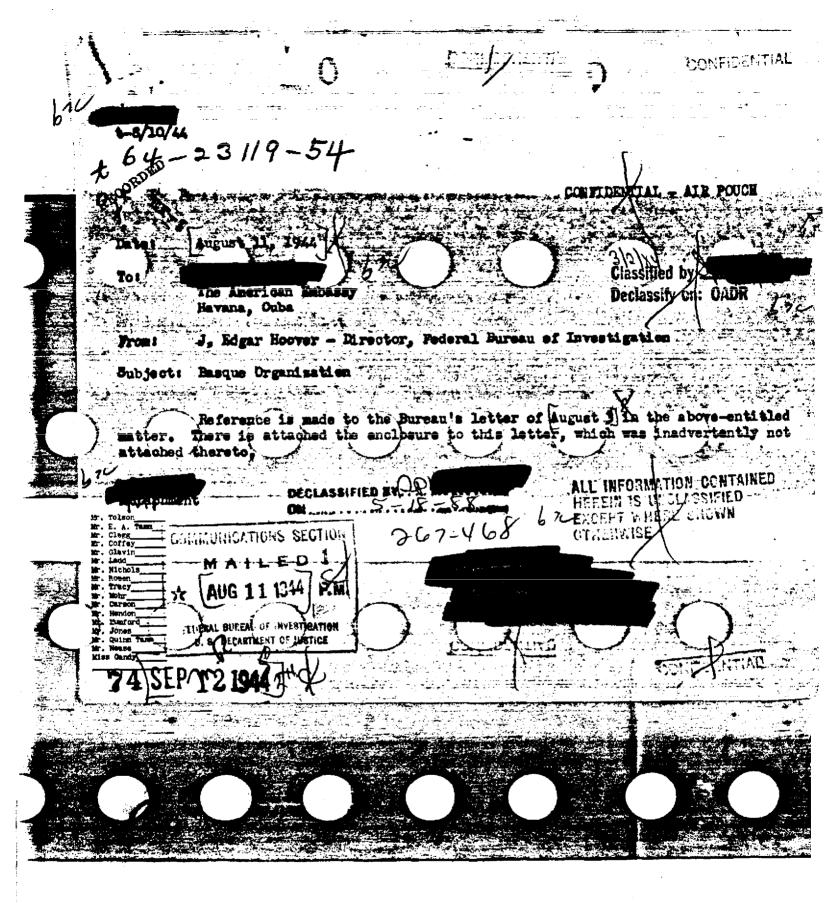
These reports have been reviewed by an Agent of this Office and pertinent material has been translated and is being retained in the files of the Santiago Office.

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FBI/DOJ



# OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE SEMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES SANTIAGO CHILE

July 18, 1944



Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a report received from the representative in Santiago of the Basque Intelligence Service.

This material has been assembled in Santiago, and pertinent portions have been translated and are included in the files of this office.

Very truly yours,

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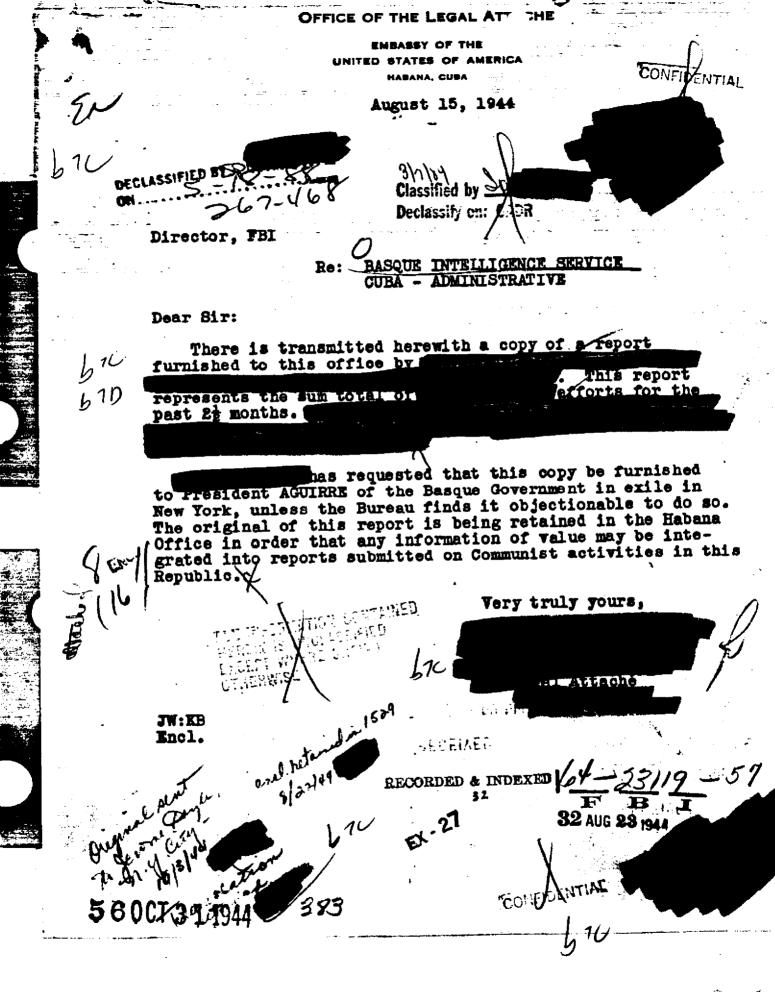
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THE UNITED STATES UFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTAK CARACAS - VENEZUELA

August 22, 1944

Registry No. 575

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIA IS UTALASSIFIED EXCEPT V. HELE SHOWN

Personal Confidential

Director, FBI

BASOUR ORGANIZATION

Reference is made to Bureau cable to this office No. 657, dated August 8, 1944, and to Bureau letter to this office dated August 8, 1944, relative to the above set out subject matter. JOONE INFT.

This is to advise that an arrangement has been made with the Basque Organization, through Informant to continue the services of the Intelligence Unit of the Basques. Refective as of August 1, 1944, a monthly sum of \$400 will be delivered to Informant for the services for the services

that will be performed for this office.(2)

The use of the informants located in the various towns throughout Venezuela, those presently located in in Caracas, Venezuela, and those located on will be continued. In addition to general investigation, the Basques will concentrate on obtaining political information and information concerning the unrest presently existing in Venezuela.

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Very truly yours

RECORDED

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