

Basque Intelligence Service

Section 2

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

February 16, 1944

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OTHERWISE

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY
S. 18-5.8.1

Basque Organization in Venezuela
Venezuela - Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to this office's letter to the Director dated November 3, 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 currently 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 work will be submitted.

The changes referred to in the above paragraph are as follows: Contact with the Basque informant in Cor8 will be made by correspondence rather than by personal contact. The Basque representative at Aragua de Maturin has been dropped and a representative at Caranero added. This last is a port town on the Caribbean coast and is the one at which the trading boats 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 number 194 from this office to the Bureau, dated January 15, 1944, the cost

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of this trip will be Bs 1,100 rather than Bs 500 as stated in the memorandum. ~~✓~~

Also included as an enclosure of this letter 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 from Spain. Arrangements have been made to establish contact with ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ He is to be instructed regarding the type of information desired by Informant. ~~_____~~ The enclosed memorandum was prepared for ~~_____~~ guidance in giving such instructions. An attempt will be 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)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following is in accordance with our recent conversation:

SETTING UP THE SYSTEM

By Mail:

Letters should be sent to your representatives at Maturin, Cumana, Aragua de Maturin, Tucupita, Porlamar and Ciudad Bolivar. Letters should state:

- (1) The general purpose and objects of the plan together with a request for cooperation in same.
- (2) That a report is desired the 15th and 30th 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.
- (3) That an answer is requested as to representative's willingness to work with us, at which time additional instructions will be issued.

Further Instructions by Mail:

Upon receipt of a communication 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 Basque language to such-and-such an address.
- (2) Regarding specific requests for information on an individual, that the following represents the minimum information desired:

Name
Age, including date and place of birth.
Nationality
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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ENCLOSURE

64-23119-16

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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.

(3) 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 need 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 cities 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 Maracaibo 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:

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 due time 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 \$ 500, including a salary of \$ 30 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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MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED BY 001
ON 5/18/88
267-468

The following memorandum reflects the 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 effects of the subject of investigation.

1. Identity of suspected crew 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.
 - (e) Any suspicious documents or other articles in possession of subject.
2. Unusual movements of ship or unusual activities of ships' officers.
3. 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:

Name	Build
Age (with date and place of birth)	Marital status
Nationality	Occupation
Passport carried	Other physical
Height	characteristics, such as
Weight	mustache, glasses, manner
Color of eyes	walking, amputations, etc.
Color of hair	General comments.
Complexion	

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62-23117-16

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Duplicate to 64-2347-16

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

64-2347-16 (Enclosure)

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New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1944

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Director, FBI

Attention:  b7c

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RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS

Classified by ~~DDI~~
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267.462

Dear Sir:

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 SIS office contact ANTONIO IRLA, Secretary to President JOSE ANTONIO AGUIRRE of the Basque Government in exile, and to discuss with Mr. IRLA the subject matter of the Basque organization cooperating exclusively with Bureau representatives in South America. (S)

Through the assistance of Special Agent William A. Costello, Mr. Doyle met Mr. IRLA 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. (S)

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

(C) RECORDED & INDEXED

64-23119-17

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Transmit
date 1/14/44
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c Director, FBI

New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1944

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[REDACTED] (c)
[REDACTED] (c)
[REDACTED] (c)
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 was reached [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] 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. (X)

It is the desire of President AGUIRRE and IRALA to confine the contacts of the Basques in the Western Hemisphere to Bureau contacts solely. Inasmuch as the Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction outside the Western Hemisphere [REDACTED] (X) (c)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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Director, FBI
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New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1944

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BASQUES' RELATIONS WITH OFFICE OF NAVAL 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 ONI 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. IRLA 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. IRLA 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. IRLA 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. IRLA 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. IRLA 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. IRLA the inadvisability of turning over a lump sum to President AGUIRRE for distribution throughout Latin America to Basque representatives. Mr. IRLA 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. IRLA 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. IRLA believes, however, that in many instances, sums of money should be paid Basque representatives or otherwise they might suffer economic hardship.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI
JD.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. IRALA states that the only real administrative difficulties he could 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 1939, Basques have been working in favor of the Allies. [REDACTED] Thereafter, [REDACTED] began paying certain sums of money each month for the maintenance of an undercover office for the Basques.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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Director, FBI
JD: [REDACTED]New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1944

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 Cuba, 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, Mr. IRALA 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 enemies 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 [REDACTED] at the Seat of Government.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

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New York, N. Y.
March 9, 1944

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Director, FBI

Attention:

RE: BASQUES - COVERAGE IN ARGENTINA

Classified by [redacted]

Classified by [redacted]

Dear Sir:

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S-18-88
267-468

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

As was set out in the letter of reference, the Basques have been working on intelligence matters in Argentina 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 LASARTE's organization was 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 Aires.

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Director, FBI
JD:

New York, N. Y.
March 9, 1944

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[REDACTED]

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 to [REDACTED] and eventually will deal only with the Bureau's representatives. (X)

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 [REDACTED] or the Basques. (X)

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
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CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Evers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

March 14, 1944

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[Handwritten signature] 267468

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: Basque Organization
Latin American Matters

Classified by *[redacted]*
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BACKGROUND

You will recall that Antonio Irala, Secretary to the President of the Basque Government in exile, informed an Agent of the New York Office that the Basques were strongly desirous of working 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 utilization of the Basque representatives in Latin America as informants for the Bureau.

DETAILS

Doyle interviewed Irala at length and obtained the information which is set out below:

Irala explained that when President Aguirre of the Basques came to the United States he was accompanied by Manuel de Irujo.

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[REDACTED]

These 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 York Office of the Basques to clear up the situation because it was considered that it would be indiscreet.

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

(c)

[REDACTED]

Panama: No contacts with American authorities.

Other countries: No Basque information service organized as yet.

Irala 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 Western Hemisphere to the Bureau.

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[REDACTED]

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Irala pointed out that they would of course desire that the Bureau forward a few administrative messages for the Basques. [REDACTED] He stated that it would be satisfactory for the Bureau's representative to make arrangements locally with the Basque organizations for finances. [REDACTED]

Irala 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 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 delegation 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.

(C)
[REDACTED]

(C)
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] C

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 organizations 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.

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[REDACTED]

In view of their interest in combating Communism and their efforts already begun 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.

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[REDACTED] C 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 [REDACTED] are doing this at the present time, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] C

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

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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 [REDACTED]

6-1
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4. With respect to Buenos Aires, it is suggested that the Basques in New York instruct Lasarte to collaborate with the Legal Attache, not to the exclusion of the [REDACTED] but in connection with matters other than those presently being obtained for the [REDACTED]. Also, the Legal Attache should endeavor to perfect an arrangement with the local Basque representative whereby we will receive the ship reports presently being given the [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] which is in accord with Irala's suggestion.

Respectfully,

3/18/44
JAN 5 11
[REDACTED]
b7c
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

5/30/44

DECLASSIFIED BY 57468 ON 11/12/1994

SAC, New York
Attention: Special Agent Jerome Doyle
J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

4-2319-19
RECORDED

Basque Organization
Latin American Matters

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Classified by 1111
Declassify on: OADR

Reference is made to your letter of March 4, 1944, reflecting results of a conference between Special Agent Jerome Doyle and Antonio Irala, Secretary to the 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 Agent Doyle in connection with further conferences for the purpose of making definite arrangements with the Basque representatives in New York.

SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION

It is desired that the necessary letters be secured from President Aguirre, directed to the Basque representatives in Latin America, concerning their future collaboration with the Bureau's Legal Attaches. These letters will be forwarded by the Bureau to the Legal Attaches with appropriate instructions for contacting the local Basque representatives.

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

With regard to the suggestion of Irala that a competent Basque representative from Venezuela proceed to Mexico, Colombia, and Chile in order to acquaint the Basque representatives in those countries as to means of proper collaboration with the legal Attaches, this will be satisfactory to the Bureau, and you should secure further details with respect to completion of this arrangement.

I have noted the comments of the Basques with respect to collaboration with the [redacted] in Buenos Aires, and their suggestions as to future work for the legal Attaches. The Bureau desires that arrangements be made for the legal Attache to utilize the local Basque representatives in Buenos Aires for work on political, economic, and other types of information which are not being presently furnished to the [redacted]. It will of course be satisfactory with the Bureau for the Basques to gradually withdraw from their arrangement with the [redacted] but this should be left up to their discretion. It is suggested that copies of ship reports presently being furnished to the [redacted] should also be furnished to the legal Attache for his information. [redacted] arrangement should be carefully worked out in Buenos Aires on a confidential basis between the [redacted] representatives there.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

MAILED 14

- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Adams
- Carson
- Harbo
- Wendon
- Shaw
- Starks
- Quinn
- Nease
- Gandy

You should advise the Basque delegation that financial arrangements with [redacted] in Latin America will be worked out by the legal Attache in accordance with services performed and on the basis that the Bureau deals with these [redacted] delegates that the arrangements for these finances have been [redacted] with respect to transmission of administrative mail be [redacted]

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between the local Basque delegates and President Aguirre which has previously been done by [redacted] the Bureau will handle this mail, but it should be kept at a minimum. Reports on Communism in which President Aguirre expressed an interest should be transmitted from their local representatives to President Aguirre through the Bureau, provided a copy of each report is made available to the Bureau. X

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

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New York, N. Y.
April 18, 1944

JD [redacted]

Director, FBI

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Attention: [redacted]

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 12, 1944 addressed to New York City for the attention of Jerome Doyle in the above captioned matter. Further reference is made to letter of the New York office to the Bureau dated March 4, 1944 concerning the same subject. Further reference is made to telephone calls between Supervisor [redacted] at the Seat of Government and Mr. Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office on April 4, 1944.

This is to advise the Bureau that subsequent to March 4, 1944 up to April 17, 1944, Mr. Jerome Doyle has conferred with ANTONIO IRALA, Secretary to the President of the Basque Republic concerning the details of bringing about close cooperation between the Bureau's Legal Attaches in Latin America and the various representatives of the Basque Delegations in the Latin countries. It should be noted that Mr. IRALA has been most desirous of cooperation and amenable to suggestions.

On April 12, 1944, several letters were obtained from Mr. IRALA signed by President AGUIRRE of the Basque Delegation, directed to Basque representatives in Latin America. At this time, the letters are addressed to the following Basque representatives:

Sr. D. Jose Maria de Lasarte
Florida 461
Buenos Aires, Argentina

[redacted]
Santiago de Chile

[redacted]
Lima, Peru

Sr. D. Jesus de Salazar
Calle Lovaton, 8
Ciudad Trujillo
Republica, Dominicana

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
DATE [redacted]

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61 JUN 15 1944

b7c Director, FBI
JD

New York, N. Y.
April 18, 1944
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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 [redacted] 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. [redacted]

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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 liaison 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.

b7v Director, FBI

New York, N. Y.

April 18, 1944

Insofar as Venezuela, 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 Venezuela 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 Venezuela stop in Cuba and Colombia en route from New York to Caracas and in those two countries perfect the arranging of closer liaison 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. IRALA 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 on or about April 30, 1944. Mr. Doyle will notify the Bureau as to the exact date when it crystallizes.

b1 [REDACTED] 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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI
JD: [REDACTED]

New York, N. Y.
April 18, 1944

Attaches and the Basque representatives. President AGUIRRE and Mr. IRLA 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. IRLA 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; Venezuela - \$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
E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enclosures 6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 157

Basque Representative
Tehu, Chile, Dominican Republic.

CONFIDENTIAL

2/29/44
Classified by 30
Declassify on: OADR

The bearer of this letter, Mr. , is the authorized representative of 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 information 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 organization which Mr. represents from now on.

This representative, following the instructions he has received, will place the information received there in the hands of the other American organizations interested 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, and as a last resort, Mr. will undertake to give them an adequate explanation.

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 which Mr. represents, offering all its services, means and personnel that have 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.
3. You will give Mr. all the information you receive and the measures which must be undertaken in order to increase and improve it.
4. You will constantly ask Mr. for plans, ideas, projects, etc., so that the Basque organization may fulfill all the needs, informative as well as factual.

Mr. 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 greatest 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 Allied

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ON: 11/18/2008

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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 exclusiveness 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:

1. Once you agree with the bearer on the plan of work to be carried out and Mr. _____ 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 Mr. _____ 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 represents we are serving the cause of our Country.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Translated Copy of letter

April 10, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

to Dr. La Sota (Basque)
Buenos Aires, Arg.

Dear José Mari:

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify 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 maintained 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 Classified Per DIA Letter 10-16-91 (C)

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

[redacted] They require 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.

11-9-91 Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR 8267462

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 your 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. [redacted] 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 quickly, 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, [redacted] you will find [redacted] 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.

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64-23119-20

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

April 25, 1944

Registry No. _____

Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Basque Intelligence Service
Re: Basque Organization in Venezuela
Venezuela - Administrative

Dear Sir:

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 11-18-88 BY 67468

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 dated November 3, 1943, in the above entitled matter. This is to advise 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)	

EX-23
Negotiations are pending for the establishment of informants in the towns of Cumana and Maturin.

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 [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, who, in turn, forwards these requests by letter, written in the Basque language, to the various informants in the cities. After the investigations by these informants are completed, they, in turn, forward their reports, written in the Basque language, to Informant [redacted] who translates same and furnishes the report to this office written in the Spanish language.

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Re: Basque Organization in Venezuela

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b7D

[REDACTED] Basque, who will in the future act as an informant of this office.

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b7D

[REDACTED] will forward same to informant [REDACTED] and in the usual manner Informant [REDACTED] will advise this office of the information contained in these reports.

Very truly yours,

b7C

[REDACTED]
Legal Attache

b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CONFIDENTIAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

April 28, 1944

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

SUBJECT: Basque Organization
Latin American Matters

BACKGROUND

Reference is made to my memorandum of March 14, 1944, reflecting the results of an interview by Special Agent Jerome Doyle with Antonio Irala, Secretary to the President of the Basque Government in exile in New York City. Irala 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.

DETAILS

By letter of April 18, 1944, Doyle reported a further interview with Antonio Irala. There were secured from Irala letters signed by President 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 liaison 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.

With reference to Argentina

expressed the opinion that the Legal Attache should not have any difficulty in subsequently entirely taking over the Basque informants in Argentina. Dr. Lasarte, who was sent to Buenos Aires by the Basques to direct their organization, also is charged with the duty of directing the organization.



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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 headquarters 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 Basque Government 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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SP [redacted]
S. I. F. [redacted]
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9/29/84
[redacted]
[redacted]

Outline furnished
Jerome W. Gile, Inf. Sg.
Office by A. J. Ralys
on March 2, 1944.
Substance incorporated
in Inf. letter to Bureau
dated March 4, 1944.
titled - "Pasque Delegation, [redacted]"

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

I. The organization is in operation in: Mexico, Santo Domingo, Cuba, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay.

Mexico: There are many friends not only in the capital but also in the most important points of the coasts and frontiers with the United States. Up to date, an ample list of suspicious persons has been obtained among German, Italian, and Spanish subjects and some Mexicans connected with them. We have not succeeded in penetrating the enemy organization because no important matter has presented itself. The work 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 country.

[REDACTED] The Legal Attaché asked for a man to be in close contact with him. The man was supplied. We do not believe 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 could help him carry out any mission which might be given him taking into consideration the conditions of the island.

[REDACTED] and we believe also with the Legal Attaché. 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.

Cuba: All relations have been with the Legal Attaché. 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 through certain organizations such as "Centro de Independientes", Centro Gallego, Centro Catalán, Círculo Republicano Español. In the same way we can reach the religious circles throughout the country. The organization has not been fully developed because of the lack of means and direction. It would be necessary to strengthen the organization. Men whom we could have utilized entered the orbit of the activities of Mr. 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 matters with the Legal Attaché, [REDACTED] who at the time knew in detail our purpose and the measures undertaken.

b1D
Panama: Our man in Panama began to act in information work before the entrance of the United States in the war. [REDACTED]

note
b1D
[REDACTED] Later we have not been able to get him in contact with the American authorities in Panama, [REDACTED] or Legal. We know that our representative has continued working. In Panama there are few Basque refugees and few former residents. [REDACTED]

b1D
Venezuela: There are many Basque refugees residing in the most important points of the country. We believe that they can continue working in the satisfactory way with which they have done until now and undertake any mission which might be given them. No modification in the present state of affairs would have to be made other than to improve the organization technically and to select some of its members to reinforce other countries or give them special missions which could be of interest in the future.

b-1
DIA
Colombia: [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] Our representative [REDACTED]

b1D
[REDACTED] There are quite a few established Basque residents and many could be active refugees. [REDACTED]

b-1
DIA
b1D
[REDACTED] carries out his activities along the frontier of Colombia and Panama, controlling the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of this region and the jungle sections which separate them. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

b7c
b1D
At the present time our representative has just completed a trip through all the Colombian territories in order to perfect the organization. We are as yet unaware of the results. At the same time one of our agents has come in contact with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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.

b-1
DIA
C
b1D
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 can. Contact has been maintained [REDACTED] but aside from data about persons in the country and some details about specific sectors of opinion, the work has not been important. [REDACTED] has prevented obtaining better results. Contact has been made with the Spanish Legation but up to date this matter has not been well carried out.

b-1
DIA
(c)
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 [REDACTED] The [REDACTED]

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.

CONFIDENTIAL
Argentina: From the beginning of the European War Basques were working in favor of the Allies.

67D
Treated in letter of March 4, 1944
But our organization has been more efficient since the arrival of Dr. Lasarte. Up to date Dr. Lasarte has undertaken:

- a) [REDACTED]
b) [REDACTED]
c) Because of the influence of Germans and their friends in the Argentine governmental spheres, to cover the above mentioned activities by taking ample measures for security which have permitted the work to continue up to date without the slightest mishap.

b-1
per
DIA
[REDACTED] JC
Aside from the natural difficulties of the work in Argentina and the extent of the same, Dr. Lasarte has been inconvenienced up till now by the fact that we cannot send him regularly the economic assistance that we promised because of the circumstances 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 in Argentina continues 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 Daya, and numerous Basque clubs not only in the capital but also in the most important sections 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.

CONFIDENTIAL

Uruguay: Dr. Lasarte has begun the information work in Uruguay. Its existence is therefore recent and up till now contacts have been with [REDACTED] 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 Nicaragua we have Religious elements of complete trustworthiness and influence as well as some civilians, which would permit the rapid organization of information services 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 carried out 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.

B. [REDACTED] (C)

C. [REDACTED] (C)

D. 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 occasion 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 Argentina, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Changed
by conversation
with
Gral. [initials]

2.

b-1
Pov
DIA

3. 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 abnegation with which our people have worked and because our remittance covered little more than the salary of one man.

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

- A. 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 organization and its practical possibilities outside of the country in which they act.
- B. Within the lines that are decided upon, President Aguirre will send the proper instructions to each country by means of the Legal Attaché 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. Nevertheless, 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 an opportunity for the Heads of the Legal Attachés to give him the exact instructions which must be carefully transmitted and explained to our men in order that they may interpret them properly.

I have
suggested
an initial
project of
"Communism"
JD

Ortega has
suggested
the Basque
from Venezuela
as he has worked
with Bureau
very successfully
for over a year
JD

CONFIDENTIAL

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

D. With reference to Communism it would be wise to settle, keeping in mind the manner in which the Communists act, whether the work of our organization 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 economic sectors in each country for their own interests; topics which they use for their work of agitation in 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-conceived 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 enthusiasm. 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.

E. 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; Santo Domingo, \$75; Panama, \$100; Venezuela, \$400; Chile, \$400; Colombia, \$150; and Argentina \$2000 which includes Uruguay. None of our agents should be considered as a professional though they have been occupied in these activities for a long time. A personal sacrifice is involved when they devote themselves to the services of information for they must abandon their customary way of life totally or partially according to the circumstances. In order to improve the efficiency of the work we point out the convenience of paying our organization in order that our people may dedicate themselves exclusively to informative undertakings. The plans decided upon for each specific place would 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 Cuba to improve the work that is being done, and about Chile and Mexico to cover the entire territories, if it is of interest.

F. Of our part we are not specially interested in knowing in detail the information services which our agents carry 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 of interest. Besides Latin American Communism pursues the bolshevization of the Iberian Peninsula with special interest and makes the Basque Country the main target of its activity. This information would be of great value to President Aguirre as President of the Basque Country.

Final Observations:

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

This is to prevent the intervention of the sensors 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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

May 3, 1944

New York
Attention: Mr. Jerome Doyle
Dear Sir - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Latin American Matters

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Reference is made to your letter of April 18, 1944, concerning the Basque delegates in Latin America cooperating exclusively with the Legal Attaches there. The letters directed to the Basque delegates in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Dominican Republic have been forwarded as suggested. The Legal Attaches in Venezuela, Colombia, and Cuba have been advised that the chief of the Venezuelan delegation will visit these countries on his return from New York, and the Legal Attache in Mexico has been advised of the impending visit of a Basque delegate from New York. You should advise the Bureau of the departure of these Basques from New York City in order that the Legal Attaches may be advised.

The Legal Attache in Buenos Aires has been instructed in accordance with your letter that in

It is noted that in the past the Basque Government in exile in New York has forwarded \$2,000 per month to the local Basque delegate in Buenos Aires for his use in Argentina and Uruguay.

You should make it clear to the Basque representative in New York that the Bureau will finance only such work as is found necessary by the Legal Attache, and will pay only for information that is furnished to him and by arrangements with him.

With respect to work done for the Bureau by the Basque delegates in other countries, similar arrangements will be made as between the Legal Attache and the local Basque delegate to pay for only such information as the Bureau desires.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

DECLASSIFIED BY 55

DATE 10-16-91

Classified by
Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

New York, N. Y.
May 9, 1944

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON [redacted]

267-468

Attention: [redacted]

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS

Classified by 9803 [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR 267468

Dear Sir:

*Brackets classified per
DIA letter 10-16-91*

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.

At the May 2 conference, Mr. IRALA introduced to Mr. Doyle [redacted] Basque representative stationed at Caracas, Venezuela. [redacted] 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.

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

It was not felt advisable by President Aguirre that [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] Cuba and [redacted] Bogota, Colombia. These letters are the same as the general letter previously furnished the Bureau addressed to the Basque representatives in Peru, Chile and other countries.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
EX-35

64-23119-22X

MAY 17 1944

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OTHERWISE
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

67c
Director, FBI
JD

New York, N. Y.
May 9, 1944

67D [REDACTED]

67c
67D [REDACTED]

It was requested by Mr. IRLA 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. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enclosures 2

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

62
5/12/44

RECORDED

INDEXED

EX-35

Date: May 15, 1944

To: The American Embassy
Havana, Cuba

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/11/81 BY SP-11

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 exclusively with you. You were also advised that Basque delegation in Venezuela, was in New York and would return via Cuba and Colombia in order to instruct the Basque delegates in these countries with reference to this matter.

Advice has now been received that [redacted] returned directly to Caracas, but in the near future he will go to the western frontier of Venezuela 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. [redacted] did not travel via Cuba, inasmuch as close cooperation does exist at present between the Legal Attache and the Basque representatives there. However, the enclosed letter has been furnished to the Bureau by President Aguirre, for delivery to the head of the Basque delegation in Cuba. There is also attached to the copy 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.

Instructions in the Bureau letter of reference should be followed in connection with these contacts.

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED BY

cc -
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

The American Embassy
Bogota, Colombia
Caracas, Venezuela

F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

50 JUL 10 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

176

CONFIDENTIAL

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

June 3, 1944

Registry No. 292

Legal Attaché
American Embassy
Bogota, Colombia

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Re: Basque Organization
Venezuela Administrative

Dear Sir:

DECLASSIFIED BY 581
ON 5-18-88

Reference is made to Bureau letter to the Legal
Attaché at Havana, Cuba, dated May 15, 1944 with a copy
designated for your office.

This is to advise that in accordance with the
information set out in the reference letter, [redacted]
Bogota, Colombia, [redacted]
presently in Caracas, Venezuela, conferring with [redacted]
and other representatives of the Basque Delegation
in Caracas concerning the desires of President Aguirre,
of the Basque Government in Exile, that all Basque Dele-
gations throughout Central and South America work with the
representatives of the Bureau.

It is anticipated that the Colombian Delegate,
[redacted] will return to Colombia within the next few
days and will contact you relative to the working out of
a plan whereby your office will use the members of the
Basque Delegation for intelligence purposes.

Very truly yours,

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

cc--Bureau
53 JUN 28 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Legal Attaché
F B I
RECEIVED-CVB20N
JUN 5 1944
EX-42
35 JUN 13 1944

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-18-SS
ON 267468

June 5, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

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 Cuba 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 [redacted] (of DR. AGUIRRE) with 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 of [redacted] letter to President AGUIRRE in New York City. This letter represents [redacted] 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 [redacted]

As of 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 by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

RECORDED & INDEXED
27 JUN 17 1944

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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 X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI/DOJ

179

CONFIDENTIAL

June 13, 1944

SAC, New York

Attention: Mr. Jerome Doyle

EDGAR HOOVER - DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Basque Intelligence Service

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1
ON 5-16-88
267468

There is attached hereto a communication addressed to Sr. Don Jose Antonio de Aguirre, which it is desired that Mr. Jerome Doyle deliver.

For the information of Mr. Doyle this communication was received by the Office of the Legal Attache at Havana, Cuba from [REDACTED]

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

Classified by [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

JUN 15 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

50 JUL 16 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

New York, N. Y.
June 23, 1944

b7c
JD [redacted]

Director, FBI

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Attention: [redacted] b7c

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
MEXICO - ARGENTINA
RAMON ORMAZABAL - COMMUNIST

Dear Sir:

Basque Intelligence Service

b7c
b7D 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 Sr. D. Jose Maria de Lasarte, Florida 461, Buenos Aires, Argentina and [redacted] Mexico, D.F. (X)

b7c 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 [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. IRALA explained that this was being done at the specific request of Special Agent William Costello of the New York Field Division. (X)

b7c 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 [redacted] description and photograph in New York City.

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON [redacted]

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

b7c Enclosures 2

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

64-23119-25
F B I
27 JUL 3 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

64-23119-25
b7c
RECORDED
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURIER POUCH

Date: June 30, 1944

To: Mr. Francis E. Crosby
The American Embassy
Buenos Aires, Argentina

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization, Mexico-Argentina; Ramon Ormazabal, Communist.

b7c
b7D
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 461, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the other [redacted] Mexico, D. F.

These letters carried the same message which is to the effect that the Basque 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 [redacted]

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 Lasarte's investigative efforts. The legal Attache at Mexico City is being instructed to deliver the enclosed letter to [redacted] similarly advising the Bureau of the results of the latter's investigative efforts.

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED BY 501
ON 5-18-78

Classified by SP
Declassify on: OADR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAIL ROOM
★ JUN 30 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 AUG 8 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

June 30, 1944

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Habana, has requested that this office forward the enclosed letter by diplomatic pouch for delivery to Dr. ANTONIO DE IRLA, 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.

Very truly yours,

Legal Attaché

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64-23119-27
F B I
29 JUL 8. 1944

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FBI/DOJ

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

Re: *Intelligence Service*
BASQUE ORGANIZATION
Argentina Administrative

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours,

Francis E. Crosby
FRANCIS E. CROSBY,
Legal Attaché.

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP1*
ON *5-18-88*

267-468

3/7/84
Classified by *[redacted]*
Declassify on: OADR

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Section 552

Section 552a

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FBI/DOJ

188

CONFIDENTIAL

New York, N. Y.
July 14, 1944

JD:EMC

Director, FBI

Attention: V. P. KRAY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE
RE: BASQUE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION

Dear Sir:

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8
ON 5-18-88
267-468
b7c

Pursuant to the telephonic request of Supervisor [redacted] on July 8, 1944, Jerome Doyle of the New York SIS office discussed with ANTONIO IRALA, 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 [redacted] could be used in courier work. In addition, there were many Basques in Chile [redacted] and [redacted] 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 [redacted] and in addition to being a loyal Basque, [redacted]

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 [redacted] which plans should be made in advance of the event.

The foregoing information was telephonically outlined to Supervisor [redacted] on July 10, 1944 and is being confirmed through the medium of this letter.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY
SAC

HANDLED BY
STOP DESK

64-23119-30

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CONFIDENTIAL

New York, N. Y.
June 23, 1944

JD

Director, FBI

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ON

Attention:

RE: THE BASQUE ORGANIZATION -
MEXICO

Dear Sir:

Basque Intelligence Service

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 conferences 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 pesos 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.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. IRALA, upon the second occasion he conferred with Mr. 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 question 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 ready to pay the difference between the amount paid by the Civil Attache to the Basques and

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b7c Director, FBI
JD: [REDACTED]

New York, N. Y.
June 23, 1944

b7c
b7D the previous monthly stipend of \$750 American or 3000 pesos Mexican. He added that it was President AGUIRRE's desire that the Basque representative, [REDACTED] be contacted and that the attached letter from President AGUIRRE to [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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:

b7D
b7c
b7D Mr. IRALA stated that if the Civil Attache has specific work in mind for the prospective five investigators, that he give this work to [REDACTED] and it is quite possible the work can be accomplished without having five 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

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI
JD

New York, N. Y.
June 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. X

Mr. Doyle, on June 8 and 15, 1944, outlined the results of these conferences with Mr. IRALA to Supervisor [REDACTED] 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. X

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enclosure 1

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

67C
[REDACTED]
Lett from N Y dated 6/23/44

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64-23119-32

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURIER POUCH

Date: July 14, 1944

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Classified by [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR

To: [REDACTED]
The American Embassy
Mexico, D. F.

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THE BASQUE ORGANIZATION
MEXICO

DECLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
ON: 2671468

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received from E. E. Conroy, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, relative to the above-captioned organization.

You will observe the references made in this letter to the communication received from the Civil Attache at Mexico City dated June 1, 1944, 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 Laina, Secretary to the President of the Basque Delegation in New York City.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
It is suggested that you study carefully the enclosed communication from Special Agent in Charge E. E. Conroy and work out a solution on the basis of the information contained therein.

There is also enclosed a letter addressed to [REDACTED] Mexico, D. F., forwarded by Mr. E. E. Conroy, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, to be given to the addressee in the customary manner after your perusal of the contents.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bogotá, Colombia
July 8, 1944

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Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
[Confidential Informants] [REDACTED]
COLOMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE

b2
b7D

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from Bogotá to the Bureau dated July 8, 1944, regarding 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 [REDACTED]

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Very truly yours,

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]

Legal Attache

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Basque Intelligence Service

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

June 3, 1944

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Registry No. 296

Director, FBI

Classified by [redacted]

Declassify on: OADR 5-12-88
267-468

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Re: Basque Organization
Venezuela Administrative

Dear Sir:

Basque Intelligence Service
Reference is made to letter of this office to the Bureau dated May 13, 1944 concerning subject matter in which it is stated that conferences were being held with representatives of the Basque Organization for the purpose of preparation and submission of a detailed plan for the more effective use of the Basque Intelligence Service in Venezuela.

These conferences were initiated because it was believed by this office that the anticipated use of and benefit from the Basque Intelligence System has not been satisfactory. Informant [redacted] has, since the initiation of these conferences, stated that he, as well as [redacted] has been disappointed in the results produced by their groups and felt the need of a reorganization. The deficiency in the work of the Basques will be pointed out herein after in connection with the discussion of the proposals submitted by the Basque Delegation, and the reactions of this office to the aforementioned plan will be set forth.

CONFIDENTIAL
The Basque Organization, through Informant [redacted] submitted a plan for the use of the Basque Intelligence Service by the Bureau representatives, a free translation of which is attached hereto. This plan and the analysis thereof will be discussed in the order of the various sections thereof.

A. [DELEGATION OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT IN VENEZUELA]

This section sets forth the general Basque organizational set up and alleges that the Chief of the Venezuelan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[redacted] has received the sum of \$400.00 monthly 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.

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Informant [redacted] explained that the benefit received by the Legal Attaché's Office at Caracas from the payment of this sum, would be that the Chief of the Delegation 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 [redacted] 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.

We agree
The benefit that would be received by the Bureau from the expenditure of this sum would be negligible. 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. [ORGANIZATION IN THE INTERIOR OF VENEZUELA]

This section is devoted to the explanation of the set up of the Basque Intelligence Service outside of Caracas, 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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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 [redacted] (referred to in the memorandum attached as [redacted] 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. X

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 subversive tendencies of subject without factual basis therefor. X

During the discussion of this matter with Informant [redacted] 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. X

C. [HOTELS] X

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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 [redacted] so that the incoming passengers who had no predetermined destination would go to a hotel in which an informant was stationed. In addition an advertising scheme in connection with the incoming Spanish boats is contemplated in an effort to channel passengers to a hotel in Caracas 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. X

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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 to wit, [REDACTED] This idea is now in use on [REDACTED] 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 purpose. The past experience of this office with this method of procedure has been most disappointing. On receipt of a lead by Informant [REDACTED] he would, if he had sufficient time after the handling of his personal affairs, call a meeting of the committee as above set out and assign the lead to one of its members. 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.

After calling the matter to the attention of Informant [REDACTED] several times, eventually after three to four months, a report containing information of a type that could be obtained from a city directory or from a credit report was

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

Informant [REDACTED] on his return from his recent trip 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 value. 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 addition to the payment of \$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. The total of their joint salaries 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 aptitude 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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Caracas, the majority of such activity being exclusively the private affairs of the Basque Government in Exile.

To summarize, it would appear that the Basque Organization is unable, either because of the fact that the personal affairs of the members of the committee require most of their time or because they lack aptitude for general investigative 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 to be noted that the organization desires to receive a considerable amount of money for which the Bureau would receive no 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 investigative 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 for 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 [REDACTED] if future circumstances justify same.

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

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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.


Legal Attache


Attachment

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Declassify on: OADR 3/9/84

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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.

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 what is positive from it and pointing out the reasons which, in our judgment, caused the decline of our services within recent times, principally in matters referring to reports and investigations.

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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 their reports 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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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 Aguirre 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.

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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 abroad who are accustomed to arrive without a fixed destination and to stay at hotels which are recommended by the personnel of the transportation companies. X

6-7D An arrangement with [REDACTED] to have these reservations made with [REDACTED] would be able to supply us with this valuable assistance. X

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

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

Naturally these passengers would pay for their journey, 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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At present we have contacts in the following hotels:

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[REDACTED]

Estimate for this service:

[REDACTED]

We make reservations as to the possibility of obtaining these three persons, as those who do this work are not numerous in our group.

D. SPANISH SHIPS

A contact has already been established in [REDACTED]. We shall try to establish a contact in [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

Only [REDACTED] will 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 investi-

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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, etc.

Estimate:

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

B² 1000.

B² 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 scrupulously chosen two persons, whose descriptions are as follows:

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[REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 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. X

He has a good cover because simultaneously with his employment [REDACTED] He can pretend to increase this work in order to justify his means of support. X

Estimate: Monthly allotment foreseen

B# 900. JK

[REDACTED]

Estimate: Monthly allotment foreseen

B# 750. JK

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G. COMMUNIST CIRCLES

In the choice of the above-mentioned [REDACTED] 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. X

[REDACTED] a person of sound democratic formation and of absolute reliability, politically belongs to a slightly left group within the Basque movement. In our country there exist two distinctly patriotic Basque groups, whose existence is 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 majority of the members of this group personally are practicing

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It happens that in this group of persons of distinctly democratic formation [redacted] for example) are confused with others who without being exactly close to Communism have allowed themselves to be influenced by its doctrines. For a member of this group it 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] worker, viewed in those ranks with less suspicion than those of other professions.

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[redacted] He has some oratorical gifts which make him 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 other matter successfully 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 fulfills 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.

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RECORDED

64-23119-36

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SECRET - AIR COURIER

Date: July 21, 1944

To: The American Embassy
Caracas, Venezuela

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

Subject: Basque Organization; Venezuela 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 organization 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 as outlined in your letter.

For your information, the Bureau has made no agreements with the Basque 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 organization and to develop this organization 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 Venezuela, particularly in regard to the financial arrangement which you make.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
JUL 22 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 25 1944

Classified by
Declassify on: OADR

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Bogotá, Colombia
July 8, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: Basque Organization
COLOMBIAN ADMINISTRATIVE

Classified by DI 267-468
Declassify on: OADR 5-18-88

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of May 3, 1944, to [redacted] at Havana, Cuba, a copy of which was furnished to the office of the Legal Attache 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 reflecting 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 Attache 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 [redacted]

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

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

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[redacted] stated that while in Venezuela he had been informed of the program being followed by the Basque Delegation there, where

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67D by it furnishes information to the office of the Legal Attaché. [redacted] told [redacted] 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. X

[redacted] 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 Attaché 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 Attaché. It was agreed that Assistant to the Legal Attaché, [redacted] and the writer would visit [redacted] office on June 26th to work out the details of the plan of cooperation. X

On June 26th [redacted] 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 propaganda.

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 Bogotá, where all Colombian Falangists gather.

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VII [redacted]

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[redacted] 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. X X

Regarding financial arrangements, [redacted] 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 [redacted]

[redacted] 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, [redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] For vigilance on the Colombian Pacific Coast, [redacted] suggested that for \$500 Colombian pesos (\$290 U.S.) monthly, the services of [redacted] could be obtained. [redacted] 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. X

[redacted] 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, [redacted] wrote a letter to Mr. IRALA in New York, requesting that this monthly allotment be raised to \$250 per month. [redacted] 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 paid to them by the representatives of the Bureau. [redacted] also stated that the cost of his recent trip to Caracas was \$550 Colombian pesos (approximately \$315 U.S.) X

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

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On July 5, 1944, the Bureau replied that there were no objections to paying for [redacted] travel expenses to Venezuela and that no agreement had been made with IRLA 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. X

Regarding [redacted] 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. [redacted]

[redacted] For these reasons, it was believed advisable to tell [redacted] that we would not be agreeable to using the services of [redacted] in any way. [redacted] agreed that it would be best not to try to employ [redacted]. He stated that although [redacted] is a smart individual and could doubtless provide interesting information, [redacted]

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

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

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- I - We will pay [redacted] for the expenses incurred by him in travel to 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.

[redacted] is an extremely intelligent man about [redacted] years of age. [redacted]

[redacted] 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 3x5 cards, duplicates of which are retained in our office. His reports are prepared in Spanish and will be translated in our office for inclusion in reports or memorandum for the file. X

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- 5 -

b7c
b7D [REDACTED] 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. X

b7c Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Legal Attache

b7c
[REDACTED]
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July 21, 1944

SAC, New York
Attention: MR. JEROME DOYLE

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Basque Organization
Venezuela Administrative

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-10
ON 5/18/88
267-468

For your information, there is attached a copy of a letter dated June 3, 1944, from the Legal Attache's office in Caracas, setting forth the results of conferences had with the representatives of the Basque Organization in Venezuela concerning the submission of a detailed plan for effective use of the Basque Intelligence Service. The Legal Attache has also set forth his observations concerning the plan and has indicated that he feels that the Basque can be of little service to Bureau 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 office and he has been instructed to endeavor to work out a satisfactory arrangement, both financial and otherwise with the Basque organization.

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Akers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Madigan
- Starnes
- Quinn
- Nease
- Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 22 1944 P.M.
3 10 10 11 12
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Declassify on: OADR

RECORDED

64-23119-38
16 JUL 26 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Director, FBI

Classified by *[redacted]*

Declassify on: OADR-18-88
267-468

Dear Sir,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED
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. In 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 *[redacted]* 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 been *[redacted]* 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 office than this. These terms were understood both from the letters and our conversation.

DE LASARTE advised at the first meeting that he believed effective work could be done in conjunction with this office; he seemed pleased at the prospect. After a few days' *[redacted]* the matter he advised that he assessed the needs of the Basques in Argentina at \$2,000 (U.S. currency) per month, money which he would spend on work for this office exclusively and only in *[redacted]* 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. This organizational work has not been carried on to the extent contemplated.

2 AUG 29 1944 Enclosure detached in SSS & 221
for Mr. T. Doolittle for delivery

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

6/20/44

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. X

Judging from AGUIRRE'S statements appearing in referenced Bureau letter

b-1
DEN

(c)
b
(c)

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

(c)

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

6/20/44

b-1
DIA

[REDACTED] ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (c)
[REDACTED] (c)
[REDACTED] (c)

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. Aside from this, it is thought that in other countries of Latin America where the Bureau 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 States 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 informants 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 LASARTE 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 contemplated by those who arrived at the agreement in the United States, nor would it be one which could be exploited to the Bureau's advantage as

CONFIDENTIAL

22

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

6/20/44

contemplated by referenced Bureau letter. Nothing definite has been stated regarding the duration of the payments to be made. ^{where} X

Moreover, negotiations with DE LASARTE^{where} 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. X

b1
DIA
[REDACTED]
This office has not expressed approval or disapproval. It is 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. X

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 develops more detailed plans will be made for the Basque set-up for performing intelligence 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. X

b2
b2D
X 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 [REDACTED] X

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. X

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

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 6/20/44

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

Very truly yours,

Francis E. Crosby

FRANCIS E. CROSBY
Legal Attaché

b1c
[REDACTED]
Enclosure

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 18, 1944

Classified by [redacted]

Declassify on: OADR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

It will be recalled that through the New York headquarters of the Basque organization arrangements have been made for the Bureau to utilize the Basques throughout Latin America as informants. The Legal Attaches have been advised of these arrangements and appropriate use is being made of the Basques.

The main problem with reference to utilizing the Basques was in Argentina

Appropriate instructions were sent both to the head of the Basques in Buenos Aires and to the Legal Attache in Buenos Aires.

The Legal Attache advises that he has had a conference with De Lasarte, head of the Basques in Buenos Aires, and an arrangement has been made that the Basques immediately begin to work for the Legal Attache. They are to extend their organization among the several hundred thousand Basques in Argentina in order to more fully and completely fulfill our needs. De Lasarte has already begun giving to the Legal Attache copies of all the reports

The Legal Attache stated that a complete survey had been made with reference to the work desired by the Bureau and that De Lasarte has submitted a plan which will necessitate the expenditure of about \$2,000 per month. The Legal Attache believed that this is a reasonable estimate and that



3/1/44
CLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED

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R215 NOV 2 1961

RETURN DIRECTLY TO SIS FILES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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 office procure 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 sources, and because the Buenos Aires organization also controls the Basque organization in Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Chile. X

*State
referred*

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. X

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. X

Respectfully,

C. H. Carson

C. H. Carson

Attachment

*Brackets in Para 1 in Red
remains (u) per State Dept
Letter DTD 11-5-91*

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET - AIR COURIER

RECORDED

64-23119-40

Date: July 20, 1944

To: Mr. Francis E. Crosby
The American Embassy
Buenos Aires, Argentina

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

Subject: Basque Organization

Reference is made to your letter of June 20, 1944, 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 utilization of the Basque Organization, however, will be extremely productive and that they can be utilized 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 utilized. 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.

Classified
Declassify

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1
ON 5-18-85

267-462

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

JUL 21 1944

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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CONFIDENTIAL

62 AUG 29 1944

228

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Buenos Aires, Argentina
July 12, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: *O Intelligence Service*
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.

Very truly yours,

Francis E. Crosby
Francis E. Crosby,
Legal Attaché.

DECLASSIFIED BY *SS1 [redacted]*
ON *5/18/78 [redacted]*

267-468
[redacted]
200-24

Enclosures - 2

*Land & Co
Sent Doyle
in N.Y.C.
7-76*
[redacted]

3/2/74
Classified by *[redacted]*
Declassify on: OADR

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OTHERWISE

RECORDED

EX-50

52 AUG 26 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

64-23119-41
16 JUL 27 1944
SIS
[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

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OTHERWISE

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 267-168
ON 3/17/84

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

July 12, 1944

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Declassify on: OADR

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau radiogram dated May 31, 1944, granting authority to the Office of the Legal Attache 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 June 1, 1944 a plan was put into effect whereby the Basque delegate, [redacted] 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 [redacted] and it was agreed that [redacted] would continue in this capacity.

Besides employing [redacted] and [redacted] two other assistants, [redacted] and [redacted] were also employed, upon [redacted] official request, at a monthly salary of \$150 each. [redacted] 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

53SEP

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&
INDEXED

64-23119-42

14 JUL 28 1944

Habana, Cuba
July 12, 1944

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

In this connection the Bureau is advised that [redacted] 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 [redacted]

Habana, Cuba
July 12, 1944

Habana, Cuba
July 12, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In view of the fact that no useful purpose can be served by the retention as Basque delegate of [REDACTED] in this area it is recommended that the Bureau's liaison agent with Dr. JOSE ANTONIO de AGUIRRE, Basque President, be requested to discuss this matter with Dr. AGUIRRE in order that [REDACTED] can be substituted by a Basque with more ability and interest in intelligence matters. 2

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

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

It is requested that the Bureau 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 [REDACTED] has no personal interest in the position of delegate and is not aware of our plan to request the substitution of [REDACTED]. If consonant with Bureau policy the recommendation might be made that [REDACTED] be named Basque delegate for this area. It is felt that [REDACTED] is the Basque best qualified along intelligence lines in this country.

In the event the removal of [REDACTED] from the position as delegate is impossible an alternative plan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

232

Re: Basque Organization

Habana, Cuba
July 12, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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b7D
suggested is that President DE AGUIRRE be requested to direct a letter to [REDACTED] informing him that he is to cease his intelligence activities immediately and to place full responsibility for that work in the hands of [REDACTED]. If, on the other hand, President DE AGUIRRE desires to remove [REDACTED] and agrees to name [REDACTED] delegate, it is recommended that the appointment of [REDACTED] be 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 [REDACTED] and will be able to control him in that way.

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

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Legal Attache

b7c
[REDACTED]
1-84

0 3534
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CARACAS, VENEZUELA

July 19, 1944

Registry No. 485

Director, FBI

RE: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
VENEZUELA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from this office to the Bureau dated June 3, 1944, entitled as above, setting forth the proposed plan of cooperation between the Basques and the Bureau representatives in Venezuela, said plan having been submitted by the Basque organization.

This is to advise that since the date of the submission of the aforementioned plan, the Basque organization has performed fewer and fewer services for the Legal Attache's office. During the various contacts with this group this lackadaisical attitude has become increasingly evident and apparently is based on two premises, to wit; first, the war is won and there is no longer any necessity for them to work and second, (and apparently the real reason) the Basque leaders state that all the members of the Basque organization work eight hours per day in their private or professional jobs and therefore these members do not care to perform investigative services at night or while off duty.

Informant [redacted] has recently declined, on behalf of the Basque intelligence service, to cover leads for this office, stating that the leads were difficult to cover. He has also stated that the investigative work to be handled for this office is being held in abeyance until the Bureau acts on the plan referred to in the reference letter, so informing a representative of this office he, Informant [redacted] made it clear that it is the intention of the Basque organization to have all the investigative work performed by the two full time investigators, as suggested in the aforementioned plan, whose salary will be paid by the Bureau, and the organization will do nothing to earn the large sum of money desired monthly from the Bureau.

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Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

Basque Intelligence Service

NO 27-1-11

b7c

267-468

RECORDED 64-23119-43

234

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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. X

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Legal Attache

67✓
[REDACTED]
36-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED
EX-18

64-23119-43

SAC, New York - Attention: Mr. Jerome Doyle

July 26, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Basque Organization - Latin American Matters

There are attached letters from the Legal Attache at Havana, Cuba dated July 12 and from the Legal Attache at Caracas, Venezuela dated July 19, with reference to the utilization of the local Basque organization in connection with the Bureau's work.

It is desired that you advise the Bureau as soon as possible concerning the problems set forth in the letter from Havana, Cuba in order that the Legal Attache may be advised. The Legal Attache in Caracas has been instructed that he should work out a plan of payment to the Basques based on their value locally, of course, 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 matters with your contact in the Basque headquarters and that the Bureau be appropriately advised.

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Mohr
- Carson
- Hendon
- Harford
- Jones
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 1
★ JUL 25 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

50 AUG 31 1944

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Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☒ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

64-23119-44

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 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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FBI/DOJ

237

b7c

7/29/44

SW

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH

b7c

Date: August 1, 1944

The American Embassy
Lima, Peru

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization
[Confidential Informants]

Basque Intelligence Service

b7c
b2D

Reference is made to your letter advising that instructions forwarded by the Bureau had been delivered to [redacted] the Basque delegate in Lima, Peru. With reference to your statement that \$100 monthly had been received from the Basque Government in exile which was sufficient to meet his needs, Jose Antonio Irala, Secretary to the President of the Basques in New York City, has advised that the Basques in Peru have seldom asked for any money from the Organization, and that they are not regularly furnished \$100 per month. He also advised that the Basques would have no need for funds in Peru, except such as they might expend in connection with carrying on intelligence activities.

You are instructed to make arrangements to defray any expenses incurred in connection with the intelligence work of the Basques for your office.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 [redacted]
ON 5-12-88

267-468

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OTHERWISE

1 ENC
if

3/2/84

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

RECORDED & INDEXED

67-23119-45

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carsch
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Manford
- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

JUN 31 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED JUL 1 1944

JUL 31 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

56 AUG 28 1944 358

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CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by

Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED BY

17

1944

DE... out...

S-18-88

62-468

\$18 SW.

Mr. Doyle

I discussed this matter with Jrala & he believes that the money will not be sent from night. He adds that the Pasques in

- Agent
- Chief Clerk
- Photo Unit
- Property Unit
- Training Unit
- Miss Tate

Perm very seldom ask for only \$ Anyway I don't

if they really need \$ sent them experiences in intelligence activities. The Level attaches in Luma Can supply it.

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OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

64-23119-45

ENCLOSURE

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
CARACAS-VENEZUELA

July 29, 1944 Registry No.

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on OADR
3/19/84

Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
VENEZUELA ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

CONF. INFT. Attached hereto is a letter from In-
formant [redacted] to Mr. ANTONIO DE VITALA, Secre-
tary to President AGUIRRE, President of the
Basque Government in exile.

Inasmuch as the contents of this
letter, which is being transmitted herewith,
deal with the use of Informant [redacted] and the
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,
[redacted]

Legal Attache

Enclosure
LCM AB

RECORDED & INDEXED

RECEIVED

53 AUG 16 1944

Enclosure of [redacted] J. Boyle,
[redacted]

240

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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64-23119-46 (Enclosure)

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FBI/DOJ

241

CONFIDENTIAL

New York, New York
July 29, 1944

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Attention [redacted]

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

Basque Intelligence Service

Reference is made to the letter 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 to Cuba to [redacted] and [redacted] instructing both of these individuals that immediately all Basque intelligence work in Cuba was to be handled by [redacted]. President AGUIRRE was present during Mr. Doyle's 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 [redacted] telephonically 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 [redacted] which is 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,

3/2/84
Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

RECORDED
E. E. CONROY
INDEXED

14 AUG 5 1944

Enclosure
Special Delivery

CONFIDENTIAL

242

RECORDED

676 64-23119-47

8-3/2/44

CONFIDENTIAL - AIR POUCH

Date: August 3, 1944

To: [redacted]
The American Embassy
Havana, Cuba

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization
Cuba Administrative

Reference is made to your letter of July 12, 1944 regarding your relations with the above-entitled organization. This matter has been discussed with Antonio 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 [redacted] to turn over all Basque intelligence work in Cuba to [redacted]. It will be agreeable to them for you to then deal entirely with [redacted] in connection with investigative matters.

There is attached a letter from Aguirre addressed to [redacted] instructing him to make this arrangement. It is suggested that you deliver this letter to [redacted] and that the arrangements be made as were suggested in your letter of reference.

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 6/2/71
267468

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 15
★ AUG 3 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 AUG 14 1944 288

CONFIDENTIAL

243

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FBI/DOJ

245

CONFIDENTIAL

New York, New York
July 28, 1944

JD. [REDACTED] b7C

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
ON [REDACTED] 267468

Attention: [REDACTED] b7C

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
VENEZUELA - ADMINISTRATIVE

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 organization 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 organization of the Basque Intelligence in Venezuela together with the criticism of this proposed organization 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.

DEFERRED RECORDING

These letters were discussed on July 27, 1944 by Jerome Doyle with President AGUIRRE of the Basque Republic and ANTONIO IRLA, secretary to the President. It was ascertained that Venezuela Informant [REDACTED] 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 Organization 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. IRLA 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 organized plan rather than haphazardly. 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 [REDACTED] b2 b7C

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RECORDED

INDEXED

Classified by [REDACTED]

Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

21 SEP 13 1944

b7C

246

Letter to the Bureau

New York, New York
July 29, 1944

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. X

b2
b7D
Mr. IRALA was of the opinion that Venezuela Informant [redacted] was not lackadaisical nor let up his efforts with the thought that the war was already won. He attributes any lack of spirit on the part of [redacted] by the fact that the work in Venezuela is not as exciting as it was a year ago, that No. [redacted] must accustom himself to the change in pace. He stated further that No. [redacted]

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

[redacted] Upon receipt of this information, Mr. IRALA stated that it would be communicated to [redacted] through official channels. X

Mr. IRALA stated that a letter of censure could be written by President AGUIRRE to [redacted] 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. X

b2
The substance of the foregoing was brought to the attention of [redacted] 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. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

CONFIDENTIAL

X

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

July 31, 1944

Registry No. 537

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

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OTHERWISE

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

Re - BASQUE ORGANIZATION
VENEZUELA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

brackets in para 1, 2 and 3 in blue classified per another agencies letter DTD [redacted] (C) b-1

Reference is made to the letters of this office directed 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:

- (1) \$400 monthly to Basque delegate in Venezuela.
- (2) \$300 monthly to Central Intelligence organization, consisting of [redacted]

(3) \$270 monthly for investigators to handle all investigation formerly handled by Basques for the Legal Attaché's office.

Total - \$1,030.00 monthly

During the course of the discussion of the plan with the Basque representatives, the following conditions became evident:

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R2 15 NOV 2 1961

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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 services in the future.

2. 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 office and have expressed a desire to discontinue the arrangement presently in existence.

3. 

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOUR

64

9

b-1
b2
b7D

CC
CC
CC
CC
CC

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.

Very truly yours,

[Redacted signature block]

b7c

b7c 36-2

[Redacted text]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c
2-8/7/44
64-23119-51

RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL - AIR POUCH

Date: August 8, 1944

To: The American Embassy
Caracas, Venezuela

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization

DECLASSIFIED BY 8004
ON 12/18/85

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 a 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 organization 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 organization 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, but on 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 copy of a letter received from the New York Field Division concerning contacts with them.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

SECTION
MAILED
AUG 11 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
AUG 11 1944

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b7c

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CONFIDENTIAL - AIR POUCH

b7c
[redacted]
8/8/44
[redacted]
Date: August 9, 1944

To: [redacted]
The American Embassy
Bogota, Colombia

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 5-18-88
26 7-468

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization

Basque Intelligence Service

There are attached a letter addressed to [redacted] and a letter addressed to [redacted] received from the Basque headquarters in New York.

It is requested that you deliver these letters.

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

★ AUG 9 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 SEP 9 - 1944

RECEIVED-NEW YORK
RECORDED
& INDEXED

64-23119-5

14 AUG 11 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSLATION FROM THE SPANISH

670
BASQUE PRESIDENCY

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

July 31, 1944

Bogota, Colombia

Dear [REDACTED]

3/1/54
Classified by [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

I have read your letter of July 8 and the reports that you enclosed of November, 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.

b7c
b7D
I am enclosing a letter that I directed to our good friend [REDACTED]. In it you will see what is my desire and the request that I am making of him. 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 your 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 won acquired prestige I do not have to argue with you any more about the request and purpose that are enclosed in these lines.

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64-23119-52

SURE

CONFIDENTIAL

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670
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 mutually conferring in all matters related to Euzkadi. Even when you received rigorous instructions in definite and delicate necessities, I believe that your good judgment will appreciate in [redacted] 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.

/s/ (Illegible)

Translated by [redacted]

August 3, 1944

TRANSLATION FROM THE SPANISH

BASQUE PRESIDENCY

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

Bogota, Colombia

Dear Perea:

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. [redacted] 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 sanes part of Euzkadi! 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. Therefore 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 [redacted]

With greetings to [redacted]
with the affection of always.

I embrace you

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/s/ (Illegible)

August 3, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

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64-23119-52
SURE

256

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

July 14, 1944

X
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/2/88 BY [REDACTED] b7c

26746.8

Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
CHILE - ADMINISTRATIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/2/88 BY [REDACTED] b7c

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 be delivered in Washington, D. C. to the Basque representative [REDACTED] (C) b1

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.

Bracketed info in para 2 and
lower left corner classified per
another agencies letter DTD

b-1 [REDACTED] (C)

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED] b7c

Legal Attache

Classified by 9803 [REDACTED] 9-22-93

Declassify on: OADR 26746.8

Enclosure (1) b7c

(c) [REDACTED] b-1

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&
INDEXED
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64-23119-53

14 AUG 5 1944

X
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/2/88 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c

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Section 552

Section 552a

~~(b)(1)~~ (b)(1)

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□ (i)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

□ (k)(1)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

□ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

□ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

□ (k)(4)

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(b)(8)

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☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

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FBI/DOJ

259

CONFIDENTIAL

8/10/44

64-23119-54

RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL - AIR POUCH

Date: August 11, 1944

To:

The American Embassy
Havana, Cuba

Classified by

Declassify on: OADR

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Basque Organization

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of August 5 in the above-entitled matter. There is attached the enclosure to this letter, which was inadvertently not attached thereto.

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

AUG 11 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

74 SEP 2 1944

267-468

260

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

July 18, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/00 BY 10407

Director, FBI

Re: ⁰ 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. [REDACTED] 1-1

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,

[REDACTED]
Legal Attache

b7c [REDACTED]
Enclosure

Bracketed portions classified per
Another agencies & entry DTD

Classified by 9803 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 267-468
9-28-93

RECORDED

64-23119-5

16 AUG 14

261

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FBI/DOJ

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FBI/DOJ

264

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

CONFIDENTIAL

August 15, 1944

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON

3/1/84
Classified by
Declassify on: E.O. 12958

Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
CUBA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a report furnished to this office by [redacted]. This report represents the sum total of [redacted] efforts for the past 2 1/2 months. [redacted]

[redacted] has requested that this copy be furnished to President AGUIRRE of the Basque Government in exile in New York, unless the Bureau finds it objectionable to do so. The original of this report is being retained in the Habana Office in order that any information of value may be integrated into reports submitted on Communist activities in this Republic.

Very truly yours,

JW:KB
Encl.

RECORDED & INDEXED
32

64-23119-57
F B I
32 AUG 23 1944

EX-27

CONFIDENTIAL

56 OCT 31 1944

383

Original sent
to Geneva
10/3/44

anal. retained in 1529
8/22/49

8 Encl.
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OTHERWISE

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET15 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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266

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FBI/DOJ

267

Let from N Y, 7/21/44

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET - AIR COURIER

Date: August 16, 1944

To: [REDACTED]
The American Embassy
San Salvador, El Salvador

Classified by [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR

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

Subject: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
EL SALVADOR - POLITICAL

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
267468

Enclosed you will find a copy of a communication received at the Bureau from E. E. Conroy, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, the contents of which are self-explanatory.

b7c b7D

You will observe that the suggestion is made that a Bureau representative

- Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Contact [REDACTED]

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

In the light of your knowledge of the situation in El Salvador it is requested that you submit to the Bureau your opinion as to whether or not you would deem it expedient to follow the suggestion made in the aforementioned communication from the New York Field Division.

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL

57 SEP 14 1944

THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
CARACAS-VENEZUELA

CA

August 22, 1944

Registry No. 575

34295

Personal and
Confidential

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Director, FBI

Re: BASQUE ORGANIZATION
VENEZUELA - ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

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.

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

The use of the informants located in the various
towns throughout Venezuela, those presently located in [redacted]
in Caracas, Venezuela, and those located on [redacted]
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.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]
5-18-44

[redacted]
[redacted]

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L. A. RECORDED
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INDEX

69-23119-5
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32 AUG 28 1944

51 SEP 4 1944

Classified by [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

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