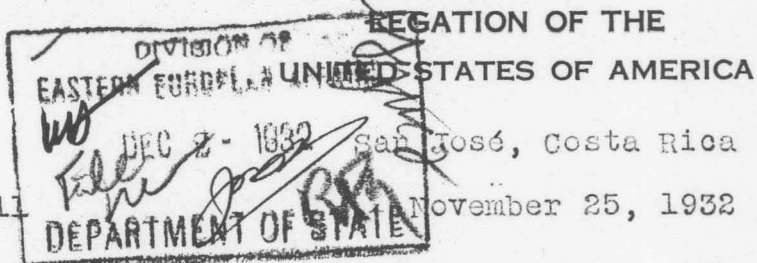


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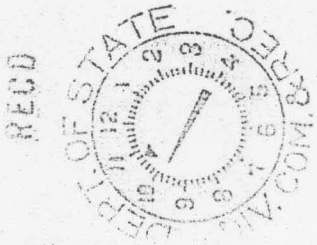
Authority State Letter 1/1/32By WJ NARA Date 7/24/98

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA

CONFIDENTIAL

 DIVISION OF  
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
DEC 1 - 1932  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

818.008/45



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To the Hon. Sec. of State

12 U. S. A.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that the WORKERS AND PEASANTS PARTY of Costa Rica, the name under which the Communist elements operate here, held an authorized mass meeting in one of the public parks of San José on the evening of November 19th last. This demonstration was a political rally in anticipation of the municipal elections which will be held throughout the country on December 4th next. It is estimated that 600 persons were present at the meeting and that some 300 or 400 more joined in a parade which followed. The whole event was carried out in the most orderly fashion.

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fashion. Speeches of a mildly Communistic nature were made by several of the Party leaders, including Manuel Mora V. and Carmen Lyra (pen name of Isabel Carvajal). The police have informed me that the organizers of the mass meeting, as well as the speakers and the leaders, were all Costa Rican citizens.

During the month of November, there has been unrest among the working classes which is to be attributed, in part, to the activities of the Workers and Peasants Party leaders. These latter have been vitalized through attacks on President Jiménez by those political interests which are opposed to him, with the subject of the Exchange Control Board as lever. Block advertisements have been printed in two of San José's papers appealing to the laborers for the maintenance of the Exchange Control Board as a protection against the "grasping capitalists". These same advertisements have carried derogatory remarks concerning the President, accusing him of being out of sympathy with the poor classes.

Some unruly elements, particularly in the rural districts, have taken advantage of the situation to make written (anonymous) threats upon the persons of the larger land owners and commit acts of petty vandalism. It is questioned that regular members of the Workers and Peasants Party are directly associated with the above.

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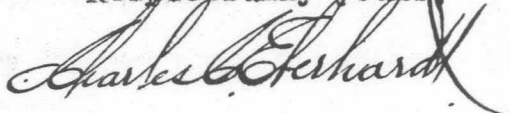
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The police of the country cannot or will not find out who is at the bottom of the Communist organization of Costa Rica. Officialdom considers Manuel Mora V. to be the leader; it believes that Enrique Yankelwitz is an active director. Yet, when Mora was arrested early this month for organized disorders in one of the theatres, President Jiménez immediately took action to prevent his detention or the investigation of his papers; Enrique Yankelwitz apparently controls some very good friends. During conversations with the higher police officials, it has become evident that they can not make up their minds as to the procedure to be followed for the maintenance of order in cases attributed to Communism.

It is announced that the Republic of Panama has recently made a drive against the Communist elements there and that some of the agitators have fled the country over its northern frontier into Costa Rica. Protection along this country's southern border is inadequate and it is unquestionable that some of the Panamanian agitators will become active locally unless the Costa Rican police is able to organize itself adequately.

Respectfully yours,



CHARLES C. EBERHARDT

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