

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

DIVISION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

APR 15 1944

April 10, 1944.

Mr. Cabot:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STUDENT STRIKE AND BOND ISSUE IN COSTA RICA

The attached despatch reports further and in more detail concerning the strike against the naming of an allegedly communist teacher as professor of English in the Colegio Superior de Señoritas. Developments have embarrassed the administration, feeling is high and the students continue on strike. The solution is not yet in sight but will probably be reached by peaceful means.

The Administration suddenly presented to the Congress a project authorizing a bond issue of 5,000,000 colones. The method of its presentation, with no advance notice, and the attempt to push it through without debate aroused widespread opposition. The various banks were unanimous in disapproval and had an extremely stormy session with the President at which they declared that they would refuse to subscribe to the loan. The discussion was apparently extremely acrimonious. A plan was eventually worked out whereby the National Bank would lend the Government 300,000 colones to meet current payrolls, and arrangements were discussed for further advances in the immediate future. The compromise proposal is now receiving attention of

Costa Rica,
28, 1944.

DIVISION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS
APR 15 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

over appointment
dim;

issue arouses oppo-
nking community.

yes no however

President
question of
remains
accepted. The
Ambassy staff
Schorita

ent latent against
lderón Guardia, a
ll be inherited by
o report two devel-
e first concerns the
es here by the appoint-
to a teaching post,
erate situation of the

183 of March 24, 10
Superior de Señoritas
like on the afternoon
the naming of Señora

former institution. Señora de Odín, who formerly taught at the Colegio and who is admittedly a capable teacher, has been much in the limelight lately, having taken an active part in the campaign to elect Teodoro Picado, speaking and writing articles in his behalf. Those opposing her charge her with being a Communist sympathizer, whether this is the case or not, there is no doubt that she is a militant and outspoken Leftist, with a considerable flair for publicity.

The nomination of Señora de Odín was an unfortunate choice on the part of the Administration, for it awakened an immediate and violent reaction among those who had opposed the Administration at election time, and there can be no doubt that the issue of her suitability as a teacher was soon forgotten in the effort to embarrass President Calderón Guardia, on the one hand, and the attempt to vindicate him on the other.

OF STATE
2 1944
OF
RECORDS

818.00/2019

818.00/2019

PS/UB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

-2-

Congress. Both the above developments indicate that Calderón Guardia's enemies continue their efforts to embarrass his administration. The opposition daily, DIARIO DE COSTA RICA, is making the most of the administration's political ineptness and its circulation is rising steadily, whereas that of LA TRIBUNA, which is pro-administration, has been steadily declining. Calderón Guardia's legacy to Picado will consequently contain an added portion of bitterness and the situation would be much more serious if the opposition had a strong and respected leader.

(Despatch no. 1224 of March 28, 1944,
from San Jose.)

CCA:MPC:PAL

Corina Rodríguez de Odín as Professor of English in the former institution. Señora de Odín, who formerly taught at the Colegio and who is admittedly a capable teacher, has been much in the limelight lately, having taken an active part in the campaign to elect Teodoro Picado, speaking and writing articles in his behalf. Those opposing her charge her with being a Communist sympathizer; whether this is the case or not, there is no doubt that she is a militant and outspoken Leftist, with a considerable flair for publicity.

The nomination of Señora de Odín was an unfortunate choice on the part of the Administration, for it awakened an immediate and violent reaction among those who had opposed the Administration at election time, and there can be no doubt that the issue of her suitability as a teacher was soon forgotten in the effort to embarrass President Calderón Guardia, on the one hand, and the attempt to vindicate him on the other.

As

DECLASSIFIED
Authority State Letter 11/1/92
By WJ NARA Date 7/24/98
E
AMERICA
Costa Rica,
28, 1944.
DEPT. OF CULTURAL RELATIONS
APR 15 1944
DEPT. OF STATE
ver appointment
dim;
ssue arouses oppo-
nking community.

nt latent against
lderón Guardia, a
ll be inherited by
o report two devel-
e first concerns the
es here by the appoint-
to a teaching post,
erate situation of the

. 183 of March 24, 10
Superior de Señoritas
ike on the afternoon
he naming of Señora

018.00/2019

PS/UB