

San José, Costa Rica
March 30, 1943

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
Director, Alien Enemy Control Unit
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ennis:

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum submitted by Mr. Bell and myself to the American Minister in charge of this Mission, Mr. Robert M. Scotten.

Very truly yours,

Raymond W. Ickes
Attorney, Alien Enemy Control Unit

Enclosure:

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MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

From Raymond W. Ickes and James D. Bell
Alien Enemy Control Unit, Department of Justice

In accordance with an understanding reached between the Department of State and the Department of Justice, Mr. Bell and myself arrived in San José, Costa Rica on March 29, 1943. The purpose of this visit from the point of view of the Department of Justice was threefold. First, it was contemplated that the representative of the Alien Enemy Control Unit would discuss with the Minister and his various intelligence officers in the Legation, the possibility of sending additional dangerous alien enemies to the United States for internment. Second, it was considered advisable to discuss with the Minister the contemplated review of information presently available in the Legation on individuals from Costa Rica already interned in the United States so that both the Department of State and the Department of Justice in Washington could have the benefit of all information available on these individuals. This is considered necessary because otherwise it is impossible wisely to determine what degree of supervision in the United States is necessary in each of these cases. Third, Mr. Bell and I were to review the information presently available in the Legation on a list of individuals whose deportation to the United States for internment is proposed by the intelligence officers of the Legation.

It has been determined that in the future no alien enemies will be interned under the Alien Enemy Control Pro-

by the Legation in San José has been reviewed and the individuals classified either as "sufficient" or "insufficient". In the case of those marked "sufficient", it is considered by the representatives of the Alien Enemy Control Unit that there is presently available sufficient evidence to warrant their internment in the United States for the duration of the war. In the case of those individuals classified as "insufficient", it is felt that the evidence presently available does not warrant such internment. It should, however, be pointed out that it is altogether probable that future investigation will develop additional evidence against the members of this group. It is also likely that entirely new cases will be developed in the future of enemy aliens who have not been classified at all during this visit of Mr. Bell and myself to San José. Therefore, it is planned that when a sufficient number of these cases, both new and those presently marked "insufficient", have accumulated, a representative of the Alien Enemy Control Unit will be made available to go over the cases in the same way that the cases have been reviewed this time.

Referring again to the classification of the 64 cases of alien enemies whose deportation to the United States for internment is suggested, it is pointed out that there is no hard and fast test which can be applied to all cases to determine whether or not an individual can properly be considered an internment subject under the program. Certain general principles can be adverted to, but they should be considered neither rigid nor comprehensive. For instance, an unsubstantiated allegation that a certain individual is

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warrant his inclusion on the "sufficient" list. Many facts are considered persuasive which taken alone, would not warrant internment but which in an aggregate of several, would. Examples of these might be the sending of reuckwanderer marks to Germany, consistently bad associations, sending one's children to the German School, etc. Inclusion on the Proclaimed List, without more, has not been considered ground for internment, whereas being an officer of this organization since 1935 or '36 would be sufficient in itself.

No investigation of the reliability of sources has been made by Mr. Bell and myself. The evaluation of sources by the several intelligence officers of the Legation has been relied upon.

It is recognized that in the past a certain amount of "trading" with the various Central and South American Republics has been found necessary in an effort to get individuals whom we consider really dangerous, expelled. While there is no policy to the effect that this technique should never be used, it is strongly felt that it should be held to a bare minimum. In fact, experience has indicated that in too many instances we have had to accept for internment an inordinately large number of apparently harmless individuals disliked for one reason or another by the local governments, in order to get a very few persons who can properly be considered dangerous subjects. It is therefore recommended that here, as in other Central and South American Republics, the position be squarely taken with the local Government that the United States is interested in a cooperative internment program only insofar as that program succeeds in interning truly dangerous individuals.

the number of non-dangerous ones whose internment serves no beneficial purpose, but, on the contrary, tends to create a feeling in the Central and South American Republics that the United States Government is bungling its share of the internment program and that it is doing exactly what it condemns in its enemies by interning those inconsequential individuals who have no influence, while the rest escape.

In the event that the Costa Rican Government can be persuaded to cooperate further along these lines, there is no reason why additional dangerous enemy aliens from this country together with their wives and children, where possible, cannot be interned in the United States. If there is a future group of deportees, it is suggested that each person be examined for evidence of physical or mental illness before being sent to the United States. This examination could probably be conducted through the assistance of the local public health officials.

It is also planned that a representative of the Unit will return to San José in the reasonably near future to prepare summaries based on all the information available in the Legation on individuals already interned in the United States from Costa Rica. In this connection, it should be made clear that it is not contemplated that any of these individuals will be returned to Costa Rica. It is, however, felt that in many of the cases while expulsion from Costa Rica may well have been indicated, the aliens are not sufficiently dangerous to require strict internment within the continental United States.

The type of summaries which have been sent to the United States at the time of the several deportations from Costa Rica are completely inadequate for the purpose of evaluating the evidence that was relied upon in determining that the particular alien enemy was properly an internment subject. A representative in the country from which the alien has been sent can review all the available evidence and also talk to the different intelligence officers concerned. In addition to saving time this procedure saves a veritable mountain of paper work which would be necessary were the review to be conducted from Washington.



R.W.I.

San José, Costa Rica
March 30, 1943

COSTA RICA - "SUFFICIENT"

Biamonte Rimolo, Rocco José ✓
Bansbach, Hans ✓
Becker, Kuno ✓
Brammer, Erik ✓
Burger, Luis ✓
Dorsam, Elizabeth ✓
Dondoli, Cesar ✓
Corvetti, José ✓
Dudenhoefer, Alfred ✓
Eckstein, Annie -
Eichler, Fritz ✓
Gambassi, Guido ✓
Gambassi, José ✓
Grosser, Erwin ✓
Henkel, Greta ✓
Hering, Albert ✓
Hoppe, Guillermo ✓
Iezzi, Nicola ✓
Ihrig, Leni ✓
Kitzing, Anna ✓

Knohr, Herbert ✓
Krogmann, Irmgard ✓
Lehmann, Irmgard ✓
Lorenzen, Detlef ✓
Montuoro, Aristides ✓
Morelli, Eugenio ✓
Paschka, Maria ✓
Reimers, Fritz ✓
Reising, Gerda ✓
Schell, Hedwig ✓
Schneider, Paula ✓
Seevers, George Jr. ✓
Siebe, Walter ✓
Siermann, Adolf ✓
Steinvorth, Eberhard ✓
Steinvorth, Gerhard ✓
Steinvorth, Ricardo ✓
Walter, Pablo ✓
Winkler, Georg ✓
Wunder, Kurt ✓

COSTA RICA - "INSUFFICIENT"

- Amrhein, Frenz ✓
- Brandt, Joaquin ✓
- Brunnemann, Walter ✓
- Bucher, Paul ✓
- Diepholtz, Ernst ✓
- Ehrenberg, Paul ✓
- Hangen, Enrique ✓
- Hangen, Wilhelm ✓
- Himmel, Maria ✓
- Ibscher, Margaret ✓
- Iezzi, Alfredo ✓
- Iezzi, Guerino ✓
- Kaltschmidt, Hans ✓
- Preuss, Eugenio ✓
- Preuss, Herbert ✓
- Preuss, Leni ✓
- Preuss, Louis ✓
- Schaeffer, Josef ✓
- Schay, Margarita ✓
- Schroter, Herbert von ✓
- Staufer, Josef ✓
- Steinvorth, Botho ✓
- Stentzel, Karl ✓
- Werther, Karl ✓