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Memorandum regarding activities of the United States Government in removing from the other American Republics dangerous subversive aliens.

The United States Government has since the outbreak of war received the hearty cooperation of the other American Republics in the question of the expulsion of aliens of enemy nationality and other dangerous aliens who were apparently serving Axis interests within their territory. The United States Government has provided facilities to bring to this country approximately 3,000 such aliens of whom roughly 2,000 will have been repatriated when the Grishols departs on its second voyage. In addition approximately 750 enemy aliens have been repatriated direct on neutral vessels from Venezuela, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The program of this Government and of the other American Republics associated with it has already resulted in the elimination or virtual elimination of Japanese colonies in several countries such as Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Ecuador. It is believed to have broken up to a great extent the local German organizations in many Central American countries and in Peru. For example, of 14 particularly dangerous Germans listed in a report of June 16, 1940 as being the head officials of the Nazi party in all the Central American Republics, 9 were deported to the United States, of whom 4 were repatriated, and 5 are still held here. There is no information to indicate that any of the remaining 5 persons listed in the report are yet in Central America and it is believed that they returned home before we entered the war.

The cooperation which we received from the other American Republics varies in terms of the local laws, the national policy of each country, and other circumstances peculiar to the case of each individual Republic and not in terms of willingness to cooperate in the interest of Hemisphere defense. For example, the belligerent nations of Central America and the Caribbean islands have in general been willing to send us subversive aliens without placing any limitation on our disposition of them. In other words, we could repatriate them, we could intern them or we could hold them in escrow for bargaining purposes. Peru, though not a belligerent country, has been content to expel subversive aliens and turn them over to us, their enemy, without requiring of us a firm promise to repatriate them. On the other hand, Venezuela has been unwilling to discuss the possibility of turning aliens over to us for repatriation or for internment; and Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico have insisted on the most explicit guarantees from us before turning over to us any aliens for repatriation. The attitude of these latter governments is based on internal

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reasons which probably have ample justification in terms of the local situation.

In the earlier stages of our campaign, we had a feeling that it was possible to distinguish between dangerous and non-dangerous enemy aliens in the other American Republics. Accordingly, we brought to this country for repatriation or internment numerous males leaving their inherently innocuous wives and children behind in the other American Republics. We have since received reports from our representatives in these countries that these women and children, by virtue of their apparently unfortunate position, and the complaints which they make to their influential friends among the inhabitants of the other American Republics, have become a very dangerous focus of anti-United States propaganda and should be removed. We are, therefore, not encouraging henceforth the transportation to the United States of any heads of families unaccompanied by wives and children unless these wives and children are content to remain alone.

Our experience in this matter and general observation of Axis methods lead to the conclusion that all German nationals without exception, all Japanese nationals, a small proportion of Italian nationals, and more individuals than might be expected among the political and racial refugees from Central Europe are all dangerous and should be removed from their present sphere of activity as rapidly as possible.

The obstacles that confront us in reaching our goal of eliminating dangerous Axis activity in the other American Republics are numerous, but it is believed that by intelligent use of the methods open to us we can overcome them. By offering to give designated groups of Axis nationals, particularly women and children and elderly men, safe-conduct for return to Europe if they embark on neutral vessels at designated Central or South American ports and if the vessels carry them through an American or British travel control port, we can develop a considerable volume of voluntary evacuation of German and Italian nationals. The missions at Guatemala, San Salvador, and Tegucigalpa have recently received instructions which will permit them to proceed with this technique which is the same as that followed by the mission at Caracas in obtaining the departure from Venezuela of several large groups of Axis nationals.

For persons whose repatriation we cannot permit in the interests of the United Nations, there exists the alternative of internment. Where the cases are not too numerous and the local Government is willing, transfers to the United States by air can easily be arranged for single males and for family groups. In cases where there are numerous Axis aliens to be brought here, it might be possible to obtain the cooperation of the Army Transport Service unless, of course, the numbers involved are excessively great. If, on the other hand, the local government



is unwilling to transfer aliens here for internment, or the numbers involved are too great to make a transfer feasible, there exists the possibility that this Government might lend personnel, funds and material for use in strengthening the local internment program and bringing it up to an acceptable standard. The United States Government stands willing to cooperate with the American Republics in any of the alternative methods discussed above.

It is particularly desirable that the repatriation of inherently harmless Axis nationals may be used to the greatest possible extent in obtaining the repatriation from Axis territory of nationals of the other American Republics whose presence in enemy territory gives the enemy a certain amount of bargaining power.

One of the most difficult problems arising in connection with the foregoing program is that of the dangerous aliens of other than Axis nationality whose removal from the other American Republics becomes necessary. These cases may be grouped in the following categories:

(a) Racial and political refugees. In general, these persons present a problem in that refugees in general attract sympathy and it is difficult for the general public and even some Governmental agencies to realize the diabolical cleverness of the Axis Governments in concealing their own agents in groups of genuine refugees. When persons of this category reach the United States for internment they generally claim to be anti-Axis in sympathy and may even produce documents indicating that they have been associated with anti-Axis movements in the countries whence they fled, that they were themselves in internment camps and that their relatives have been persecuted. In numerous cases of this nature the Department has investigated and has found that the persons brought here were, in the American Republics whence they were expelled, associates of and friendly with the most dangerous Nazi agents and were themselves observed to be engaged in undesirable activities. If any such persons are brought to the United States for detention during the present emergency, it is desirable that their cases be the subject of exhaustive reports in order that the United States Government may be in a position to withstand misguided appeals for their release.

(b) Persons of third nationalities. Various aliens of neutral nationality have been sent to the United States by the other American Republics because of demonstrated pre-Axis activities. When such persons are

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sent here, the expelling Government should either assume the responsibility toward the country to which the alien owes allegiance or should give to the United States Government the discretion to turn these aliens over to their respective governments if it finds this action compatible with hemispheric security. These cases are usually difficult to deal with, particularly when the subjects are nationals of free neutral powers like Switzerland or Sweden, or when they are nationals of the refugee governments at London.

(c) Persons naturalized as citizens of the other American Republics.

Many Axis nationals have obtained naturalization in the other American Republics in order to cloak their pre-Axis activities. In order to cooperate with us, some of the other American Republics have created laws enabling them to divest such disloyal citizens of the naturalization fraudulently obtained and then to expel these persons to the United States. Wider use of such laws might be encouraged, particularly in the countries of western South America where the more flagrant abuses of local nationality appear yet to exist. Reference is made to a recent instance in which the Chilean Chargé d'Affaires in an American Republic bitterly protested the internment of a German who happened also to possess Chilean nationality but who was obviously, from his actions, still a true German.

