



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

Dear Ed:

We arrived here on December 2nd and have reviewed the information available in the offices of the Military Attache, Naval Attache, Legal Attache, Civil Attache, and the Embassy, concerning 143 aliens presently interned from Costa Rica. Summaries on these cases are enclosed.

An attempt was made to check the information provided by Bureau summaries on these individuals but in some cases the information given in the summaries from the seat of Government apparently did not originate in any of the above-mentioned offices and it was not found possible to determine the reliability of sources. It is also true that a good deal of very pertinent and valuable information was secured from the intelligence officers attached to the mission here which did not appear in the summaries from Washington.

A quick survey of the Bureau summaries shows that in 22 instances allegations contained in the summaries were found to be incorrect when compared with information in the Embassy. In these 22 instances 12 were classified by the Bureau as confidential and reliable; in 4 cases there was no evaluation of the source at all; in 3 cases the allegations were stated as facts; and in 2 cases the reliability was stated as unknown. In 35 cases the subjects were referred to as "one of the most dangerous" individuals or Germans in Costa Rica. This categorization was always said to have come from a reliable source. However, a review of information available as to the activities of these individuals shows that in 14 instances there was no evidence whatsoever of any activities which might be considered detrimental to the cause of the United Nations. In 15 instances there were found to be one or two allegations of activities inimical to the cause of

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
December 7, 1943
page two

the United Nations and in only 6 cases was the evidence on these "most dangerous individuals" sufficient to classify them as a genuine threat.

At the request of the Civil Attache, Mr. Victor Heck, I have reviewed seven new cases and found three sufficient to warrant internment. Summaries on these cases are enclosed.

I received your cablegram yesterday directing me to return to Bogota and I am leaving tomorrow morning and will be in Bogota Thursday afternoon, December 9. Inasmuch as stenographic help is not necessary in reviewing new cases, Mrs. Mitchell is proceeding to Managua tomorrow where she will work with intelligence officers in preparing material on our Nicaraguan cases.

Sincerely yours,

James D. Bell.

Enclosures

