

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

CONFIDENTIAL

March 2, 1950

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Alvaro GARCIA Herrera, Prominent
Member of Liberal Party
Mr. Robert Newbegin, Counselor of Embassy

SUBJECT: Case of Alejandro or Ferenc VAJTA

In a conversation today with Dr. Alvaro GARCIA Herrera the latter inquired whether the Embassy had any information on Alejandro or Ferenc VAJTA, an individual of Hungarian origin, who was reported to have been deported from the United States as prejudicial to United States interests.

Dr. GARCIA said that it was his understanding that this person was now in Colombia and that the Government was contemplating using him in connection with its secret police. He expressed concern that a person of VAJTA'S background might be used in this connection, inasmuch as liberals were already being treated in a brutal manner, and were Vajta to be put in charge of certain Liberals they could only suspect the worst. He said that the Liberal Party did not intend to use his presence here in a political sense at all, but hoped that possibly the Embassy might find an opportunity to bring to the attention of the Foreign Office the presence of VAJTA in Colombia, informing the latter that he had been deported from the U.S. as an undesirable alien. I informed Dr. Garcia that I doubted that this would be practical, that were we to follow such a procedure in the case of deportees, we would soon find ourselves in a position where actual deportation of such persons from the U.S. would be impossible in a number of cases.

I told Dr. Garcia also for his private information that we had no information on VAJTA other than a letter which he had sent to the Embassy indicating that although charges of deportation had rested against him, he had finally been allowed to depart from the U.S. voluntarily. He had blamed his situation on charges made by certain Communistic elements in the U.S., and in his letter had assured the Embassy of his support for democratic ideals and admiration for the U.S., notwithstanding his recent experience.

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