

CHILE:

Ortega Masson, Rudecindo

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The outstanding characteristics of the new Chief of the Chilean Permanent Delegation to ^Un are his sympathy for the communist cause, his enmity towards the U.S. and his firm conviction that the best interests of Chile lie in close cooperation with the Argentine government of President Peron.

Ortega is a 53-year-old professional politician who was trained as an educator and actually taught at the Instituto Nacional in Santiago and the Licso of his native city of Temuco from 1920 to 1923. The following year he was elected to Congress, where he remained until his appointment as Minister of Education in 1938. He held this portfolio until 1940 and seems to have handled himself well. In 1941 he was elected to the Senate for the 1941-1949 term. Meanwhile he has acquired considerable stature in the Radical Party, becoming identified with its left wing. By 1947 he joined cause with various other leftists in the Radical Party who formed a schismatic group, the "Doctrinaire Radicals", which has played close to the communists and even engaged in temporary alliances with them on several occasions. As a matter of fact, since the end of World War II Ortega has veered more and more to the left and has lent his name to a multitude of communist fronts. In his spare time he has also been one of the prime movers of a "Committee for the Defense of the Interests of Chile and Latin America", which advocates coordinating nationalistic and anti-U.S. efforts in Chile with those of Argentina.

After he left the Senate in 1949 Ortega returned to his pedagogic activities at the National Institute and the Institute of Fine Arts, but was quick to jump on the Ibanes bandwagon when that candidacy began to gain momentum. After Ibanes' election, it was generally expected that Ortega would be amply rewarded, but his selection for the top United Nations post has baffled some American observers, who find it difficult to see how Ibanes could have made a more unfortunate choice from the view of the U.S. In any event, whatever Ortega may say or do at the UN should always be considered in the light of his ambition to become President of Chile.

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