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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina/Chile

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DATE DISTR. 27 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Discussions on Outlawing Communist Party of Argentina

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1. Nestor Lima Quintana, Argentine Cultural Attache in Santiago, reportedly stated that the Argentine government is studying the possibility of outlawing the Communist Party of Argentina (CPA). Since he has been making a study of the Chilean Communist Party, Lima Quintana was consulted on this matter during his recent visit to Buenos Aires.
2. Lima Quintana said he advised Argentine authorities that he believed such a measure would be a mistake, because in his opinion the outlawing of the Party would tend to give it a certain appeal which it does not possess when allowed to operate more or less openly. He stated that he used Chile as an example and told how under the present repressive laws, the PCCh is attracting back to its ranks many of those who had previously left. These individuals, he said, are now returning because of the natural tendency to aid the underdog.
3. Despite his arguments against suppression, Lima Quintana believes that the Argentine government will adopt firmer measures tending to limit the political activities of the Communists.
4. Lima Quintana stated that the Argentine Communists have been very clever in avoiding government persecution, and he pointed out that lawyer Faustino Jorge, who uses the nickname Tino, has long acted as a sort of liaison between Peron and the CPA. According to Lima Quintana, Jorge is a staunch Communist but has been able to maintain close contact with Peron.

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