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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

7/11/65

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 12 APR 50

COUNTRY Chile

SUBJECT Pedro Enrique Alfonso Barrios, Chilean Minister of Interior

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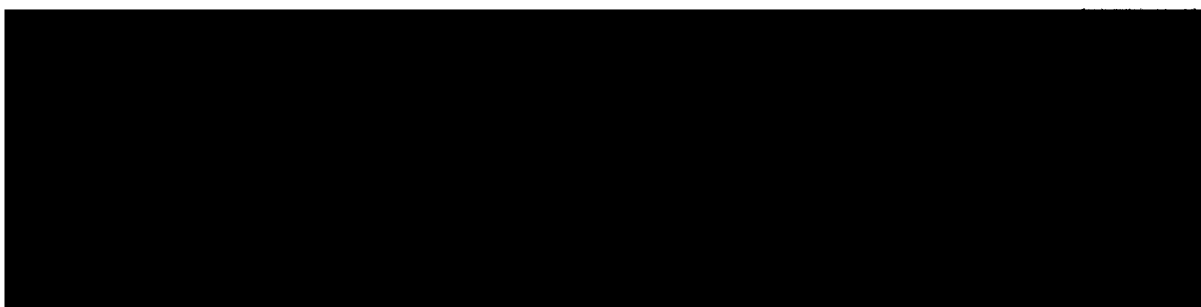
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The newly appointed Chilean Minister of the Interior, Pedro Enrique Alfonso Barrios, who is expected to be acting president while Gonzalez Videla is in the United States in April 1950, is reported to have had cordial relations with the Communists in the past. He belongs to the left wing of the Radical Party of Chile.
2. In October 1945, he was appointed a vice president of the Instituto Chileno de Relaciones Culturales con la Union Sovietica (Chilean-Soviet Cultural Relations Institute), a Communist-front organization. In September 1947, Alfonso was reported still to be an "important" member of the Institute.
3. However, it is noted that on 20 December 1945, Antonio Rios, then President of Chile, met with representatives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party regarding conditions under which the Communists would enter the Rios government. One of the Communists' conditions was that Rios should not appoint Alfonso a member of the proposed cabinet.
4. Information obtained in October 1942 indicated that Alfonso, together with Horacio Walker Larrain, the present Minister of Foreign Relations, were at that time both members and probable "legal counsellors" of the Organizacion de Defensa Juridica contra el Espionaje Nazi-Facista, an organization designed to fight Nazi and Fascist espionage activities in Chile.

Comment. Although Alfonso has been considered pro-Communist in the past, it is believed that, like Gonzalez Videla, he has changed his views recently.

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