

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 30 Aug 50

SUBJECT Argentine Police Action Against Communist
Demonstrations
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Between 13-18 July 1950, five separate Communist "flash" demonstrations occurred, 3 in Buenos Aires and 2 in La Plata, involving not more than 200 individuals. Twenty-two demonstrators were arrested and turned over to the Seccion Especial of the Argentine Federal Police. The police had advance warning of three of the demonstrations and were prepared to act quickly and effectively to suppress them.
2. The chronological sequence of events from 13 through 16 July 1950 has been reported as follows:

Thursday, 13 July 1950

A Communist group known as the Grupo Pro-Paz Mundial met on an island in the Tigre area to discuss and organize "flash" street meetings protesting:

- a. Ratification of the Rio Pact.
- b. United States interference in internal affairs of Argentina.
- c. United States interference in Korea.
- d. The atomic bomb.

The meetings were also to be used for propaganda favoring:

- a. World peace program.
- b. Sale of "peace bonds."
- c. Posting of Communist printed matter on public walls.

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To avoid police surveillance and interference, the Tigre meeting took the form of a picnic group.

Friday, 14 July 1950

At approximately 6:30 p.m., a group of approximately fifty persons attempted to stage a "flash" demonstration on the corner of Maipu and Corrientes. The meeting was promptly and effectively broken up by a large number of well-armed police who threw a cordon around the demonstrators. Five persons were arrested. They were:

David Raizer (or Raier), 20, Argentine
 Samuel Wold, 19, Argentine
 Jesus Torrado, 18, Argentine
 Andres P. Fanelli, 19, Argentine
 Rafael Maijanik, 19, Argentine

25X1X [REDACTED] the foregoing individuals will be turned over to the Seccion Especial of the Federal Police for "interrogation." They are being charged on three counts: disturbing the peace; holding a public demonstration without a police permit; infraction of law of "public safety."

Police informants were able to warn the authorities five hours in advance of the demonstration. The authorities have been anticipating Communist outbreaks of this nature and consequently were not caught off-guard. The President was immediately apprised of all facts by the Oficina de Control del Estado (OCE), top presidential intelligence agency.

Friday, 14 July 1950

At 7:15 p.m., a Communist group of similar size (approximately fifty persons) attempted to hold a street meeting on the corner of Calle Caseros and Calle Rioja in the Barrio Parque Patricios. A traffic officer tried to break up the demonstration and was severely beaten, as were two other officers who came to his aid. Shortly thereafter, fifteen additional police officers arrived and two persons, named below, were taken into custody:

Alberto Curbanov, 26, Argentine
 Carlos Napolitano, 33, Argentine.

In addition to charges of disturbing the peace, demonstrating without license, and endangering public safety, the above two are being charged with assault and battery and resisting arrest.

The police had no advance warning of this particular demonstration. The two individuals detained are being turned over to the Seccion Especial and police sources readily admit that they are in for some extremely rough treatment.

Saturday, 15 July 1950

A street meeting of Communists took place at a market place located at Calle 44 in the city of La Plata, province of Buenos Aires, attended by an undisclosed number of persons. Police arrived at the scene five minutes after the proceedings commenced and promptly stopped the demonstration. Personnel of the Comisaria 2 (La Plata police), the Direction of Investigations and the Feminine Brigade (women police) arrested the following:

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Log. Pedro J. Fontana, his wife, Elba P. Segui, and his son and daughter. Police, however, are not certain that this family participated in the demonstration.

Ignacio Alba and wife, Elba Gobbi

Luisa Angelica D. de Gijon

Rosario Mercedes Maldonado de Armonini

The three charges cited above have been lodged against these individuals. The police had no advance warning, and [REDACTED] are not attaching much importance to the incident.

Saturday, 15 July 1950

During the evening performance at the Cine San Martin in the city of La Plata a disturbance was provoked by two Communists (Ing. Omar Jorge Rizzo and Dr. Alfredo Douhat) who stepped upon the stage during the intermission and attempted to address the audience on the subject of "United States Imperialism." While they were thus engaged, other persons in the audience were busily distributing Communist propaganda. The affair lasted about twenty minutes and ended with the arrest of the two persons mentioned above.

The police had advance warning and were prepared to act quickly.

Sunday, 16 July 1950

At 6:30 p.m., at the corner of Calles Rodo and Miralla, Buenos Aires, some twenty persons attempted to carry out a "flash" demonstration. It took the police approximately five minutes to disperse the group, and four persons were arrested. They were:

Jorge Canto, 18, Argentine
Armonia Tome, 20, Argentine
Beatriz Lopez, 16, Argentine
Irma Lopez, 19, Argentine

[REDACTED] the most rabid of the Communists participating in this demonstration succeeded in escaping and that the officers concerned were severely reprimanded by their superiors on this account. The arrested persons will be turned over to the Seccion Especial and the five charges enumerated above will be lodged against them. The police had advance warning that the demonstration was to take place.

Sunday, 16 July 1950

Isaac Misrahi, 24, Argentine, was surprised in the act of pasting Communist propaganda on a wall at the corner of Canalejas and Segui, Buenos Aires, at 10:45 a.m., by police officer Eugenio Francese. Francese was attacked by Misrahi, but the latter was soon subdued by three patrolmen who arrived on the scene minutes later. Misrahi is being charged with engaging in unlawful propaganda, infraction of the law of public safety, assault and battery, and resisting arrest. He, too, is to be turned over to the Seccion Especial.


3. The police attributed the "flash" demonstrations to three principal motives:
 - a. An attempt to create general unrest;
 - b. A sacrifice of minor Communists for the purpose of achieving martyrs and the publicity which accompanies martyrdom;
 - c. An attempt to inflame the anti-United States feeling which is latent in the Argentine people.

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- A responsible official of the Section of Public Order of the Federal Police has said that as of the middle of July the Communists had made no attempts at sabotage, and no such activity was anticipated by the police in the immediate future.
- Communist agitators were reported to be mingling in the groups that crowded around newspaper bulletin boards, and were making disparaging remarks about United States interference in the Korean War. Similar activities were taking place in market places throughout the city, and the police had been alerted to be on the lookout for this type of propaganda.
- The OGB was reported to have information to the effect that the Communists were about to issue a clandestine, underground newspaper. The Communist Party of Argentina (CPA) has recently published a clandestine pamphlet entitled Nuestra Palabra (Our Word) which attacks the positions of both the United States and the Peron administration on the Korean war. The sheet demands that the Argentine public stop any collaboration which the Argentine government may contemplate in response to the United Nations request. The pamphlet insists that Argentina remain neutral in case of a third world war. The Argentine secret police are attempting to determine where the leaflets were printed, and who was responsible for their distribution.
- Federal Police delegations throughout Argentina were alerted to the possibility of continued Communist activity which might include anti-government demonstrations. Extra patrols of detectives covered the streets of Buenos Aires and La Plata daily from twelve noon on, as a direct result of the Communist demonstrations. The government,  had indicated that it would not tolerate such gatherings and vigorous measures would be taken to discourage them. All intelligence and law enforcement agencies were closely coordinating their activities, and funneling their reports to the President through the OCE.
- The Minister of Public Works, General Juan Pistarini, made the following confidential observations on 17 July 1950:
- a. If necessary, Argentina was prepared to take drastic measures against the Argentine Communists. However, Minister Pistarini said that he, personally, felt that the Communists were neither very numerous or dangerous.
 - b. General Pistarini admitted that the Argentine public was somewhat confused by recent world events and Argentine actions, but the government was preparing a concerted program of publicity designed to dispel the confusion and gain popular support for its policies.
 - c. General Pistarini said that the great majority of the officers of the armed forces were behind the President, but there were some doubts as to the support of some of the younger officers.
 - d. He said that the government was prepared to send food, materials and ships to the Korean war zone if the United Nations requested it. He did not know, however, whether the government would be willing to send men, as the internal situation in Argentina had first priority. He added that the government "warmly" desired to collaborate actively against the Communist menace.
 - e. He stated that the general impression among members of the General Staff with respect to the Korean situation, was that someone had been caught badly off-guard, his inference being that the United States was that "someone."
 - f. The Argentine government, he said, sincerely applauded the various measures taken by President Truman to meet the emergency.

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- General Fisterini said that he did not think that the Communists in Argentina would attempt sabotage to impede Argentine assistance.
- He said that the government expected some minor trouble from the Communists, but was entirely confident that it would be able to handle any situation that might arise. He admitted that rabid nationalists were attempting to sabotage President Peron's international program, but added that the government would crack down on such elements whenever it became necessary.
- He stated that the leading Argentine and foreign Communists in Argentina had been under constant police surveillance since the outbreak of the war in Korea and that they could be picked up whenever necessary.
- On 19 July, a Communist-incited street meeting took place at the corner of Calles Cangallo and Callao, Buenos Aires. The following women were arrested for distributing Communist pamphlets:

Solana Bernardo	Delia Lopez
Elena Campos	Nelida Nieto
Maria Chermon	Edna Nunez de Volpe
Adelaida Garcia	Olga Ordonez
Marcelina Zarate de Garcia	Eve Felice Paeta
Carmen Gensano de Soto	Felice Paeta
Juana Golzman	Elba Perez
Esther Guitman	Enriqueta Perez
Sera Jesiot	Olga Rivero
Teresa Kayinnscy	Angela Sztacszy
Matilde Leitman	Felicia Waseresprung

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they would probably be given sentences of 15 to 30 days, without benefit of bail. The CPA wanted martyrs at all costs. more such meetings would occur.

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- On 18 July 1950 the press reported information that workers on the General Mitre railroad were planning to leave their jobs to go into Rosario and carry on a peace campaign, following instructions received from the Confederacion General de Trabajadores (CGT). Their purpose apparently was to obtain the support of other trade organizations, as a result of their interpretation of President Peron's speech on 17 July. This movement failed, however, when the labor authorities revealed that no such instructions had been received from the CGT. It was generally agreed that this confusion among the workers stemmed directly from Communist sources. On 19 July, the CGT issued a statement to the workers, warning them to be on guard against possible attempts to involve them in Communist maneuvers. The Chief of the Argentine Federal Police, General Arturo Bertollo, also made a radio address, expressing gratitude for the cooperation of the public in helping to put down recent Communist-inspired disorders and issuing a warning to be on the alert for future occurrences of this kind.
- On 20 July 1950 the Argentine press described a bill sponsored by four Deputies (headed by Deputy Eduardo Colom) in the Argentine Congress, proposing to outlaw the Communist Party, and to make illegal the formation of groups for the purpose of disseminating Communist doctrines or the application thereof in political action, and providing for punishment of individuals engaged in Communist activities. This bill will not come up for debate at the present session of Congress as a result of lack of sufficient sponsorship.
- On 21 July Argentine newspapers stated that the following were sentenced to 30 days imprisonment for having taken part in a disturbance in La Plata:

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Elba Gobbi de Alba
 Ignacio Alba
 Rosario Mercedes Maldonado de Armanini
 Romulo Ballesteros
 Luisa Angelica Delhon de Gigon
 Elba Pura Segui de Fontana
 Hugo Fontana
 Pedro Jose Fontana
 Omar Jorge Rizzo
 Jorge Rosenblatt

13. On 22 July, according to Argentine newspapers, the following were arrested as a result of a "hit and run" meeting held in the heart of the theatre district, on Calle Lavalle between Suipacha and Esmeraldas:

Saturnino Ernesto Alvarez, Argentine, 21, single, construction worker - residence - Bernal

Enrique Diaz, Argentine, 24, married, tailor, residence - San Martin

Molises Goitberg (Golberg?), Pole, 23, single, salesman, residence - Buenos Aires

Hector Sergio Weisman, Argentine, 18, single, employee, residence - Buenos Aires

Roberto Zutenin (Simurain?), Argentine, 17, student, residence - Buenos Aires.

These individuals were arrested in the midst of distributing Communist literature and shouts of "Viva Comunismo" and "Viva la Paz."

14. On 19 July, fifteen persons (names not given), who had been previously arrested by the police, were released as having had nothing to do with the demonstrations.
15. On 19 July, the Buenos Aires Chief of Police received orders direct from the Casa Rosada "to show no mercy against active Communist agitators, regardless of sex."
16. On 23 July, 60 Communists were arrested in the Province of Cordoba for disturbances in Villa Maria, Cosquin, Rio Tercero, Rio Cuarto, Alta Gracia, Oliva and Cordoba. They were accused of organizing anti-Peron, anti-American and pro-peace movements, therefore being guilty of breaking the law of public safety. Source believed that they would probably be jailed for periods of 15 to 26 days without bail. Those arrested were:

Cordoba

Carmen Celis Z. Armella
 Olga Balsechi
 Edo Edelmiro Balsechi
 Lucio Birote
 U. Juan Blatt
 Perla Brinski
 Leon Bortolilla
 Telasco Manuel Burgos
 Armando Coria
 Dora Farber
 Jose Gomez
 Guillermo Granados
 Marcos Jaroschesky
 Jose X. Lasalle
 Antonio Ledesma
 Dr. Manuel Levin
 Rosa Woscobonick de Levin
 Leopoldo Lencinas Luque
 Otto Felix Issali
 Luis Ernesto Marquez

Oscar Dionisio Vaca Martinez
 Eduardo Jaime Mogullanski
 Teresa Murachi
 Hector Naum Smueler
 Ing. Clodomiro Ortiz Hernandez
 Maria Pacetti
 Manuel Horacio Pelliza
 Maria Pillier
 Marcos Pilnick
 Omar Rastano
 Elena Reanichesco
 Dr. Eugenio Reatti
 Jose Sal Saal
 Jacobo Saal
 Mauricio Scharaier
 Etel Sarvelman
 Dr. Julio Suarez
 Aroma Sanchez
 Maximo Sterin

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Rio Cuarto
 Elias Abraham
 Felipe Luna
 Carlos Mastrangelo
 Jose Maria Maldonado
 Eusebio Ochoa
 Dr. Roberto Tato

Villa Maria
 Antonio Mignola
 Antonia Constantino de Mignola
 Celestino Forzaria
 Jose Rico
 Elvio Villarola

Oliva
 Venancio Alvarez
 Generoso Bernardo
 Pastor Turletto

Rio Tercero
 Juan Casagrande
 Transito Veron

Almafuerte
 Juan Krapache

De Hernando
 Rolando Gargiulo

Alta Gracia
 Isidoro Monjes
 Carlos Alberto Baigorri
 Didimo Oviedo

City of Cordoba
 Jorge Krabbe
 Dr. Fuad Toum, Secretary, Liga Argentina
 por los Derechos del
 Hombre

10. On 24 July, in La Plata, the following members of the CPA were arrested for distributing Communist literature and shouting "Viva Comunismo" and "Viva la Paz":

Zulma Berto de Libischoff, 21
 Job Francisco Ferreyra, 34
 Sergio Oscar Guzman, 18, student
 Juan Libischoff, 29, construction worker
 Pedro Makorvichi, 40, frigorifico worker
 Raul Sorichetti, 26, construction worker
 Dr. Baldomero Juan Valera, 33, attorney

Job Francisco Ferreyra, Zulma Berto de Libischoff, Pedro Makorvichi, Dr. Baldomero Juan Valera, and Raul Sorichetti were released on the evening of 25 July after paying fines of 300 pesos each. Sergio Guzman was given a 15-day sentence because he wrote the word "Paz" (Peace) on the walls of his jail cell. They were all booked under Articles 96 and 104 of theCodigo de Paltas (Criminal Code) which states:

"Anyone who, without causing a panic, shall propagandize or shout false news or use indecorous language in a public place, thereby disturbing the peace, shall be fined up to 50 pesos, and anyone who organizes a street meeting or demonstration without permission of the proper authorities, shall be fined up to 400 pesos."

11. As of 24 July, the following Communists were being watched by the Argentine police:

Ernesto Balbiano
 Jose Brandeburgo
 Tomas Galvo
 Emael Carreno
 Emilio Decona
 Hipolito Escobar
 Carlos Fontana
 Nora Garcia
 Italo Grassi
 Humberto Lenci
 Pedro Marciano
 Pablo Marino
 Vicente Marraro
 Jesus Mira

Juan H. Molteni
 Domingo Moner
 Juan Occhipinti
 Jose Peter
 Pascual Romano
 Elena Schwartz
 Luis M. de Salvo
 Roserio Santarceri
 Julio Sevilla
 Jose Manuel Toro
 Oscar Tome
 Ramon Yalet
 Victoriano Yalet

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19. The following Communist groups were being investigated by the OCE:

Union de Mujeres de la Argentina
Comite Argentino por la Paz
Union de Jovenes Patriotas Argentinos
Agrupacion Cultural Femenina
Liga Argentina por los Derechos del Hombre

20. The "hit and run" Communist demonstrations had fallen off about 60 per cent by the end of July, but police authorities expected the same type of demonstrations to continue. The secret police at the Casa Rosada had received information that the CPA might attempt to carry out a demonstration in front of the American Embassy. Chief of Police Bertollo had requested more radio patrol cars and additional radio equipment in a memorandum handed to President Peron during the last week of July.
21. The CPA was apparently trying desperately to influence Argentine public opinion against intervention in the Korean war. Source reported that the Argentine police feel that the CPA has been unsuccessful in this effort, although some government officials feel that the Communist efforts have been extremely fruitful.

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~~Comment.~~ The following information was reported on some of the individuals arrested by the police:

Ing. Pedro J. Fontana - According to the 26 January 1950 issue of the Communist paper Pueblo Unido, Fontana was the CPA candidate for Provincial Senator from La Plata in the March 1950 elections. Fontana was previously reported as Secretary General of the Comite Provincial por la Paz, at La Plata.

Ignacio Alba - The 26 January 1950 issue of Pueblo Unido listed Alba, a construction worker, as a candidate for the Provincial Senate on the Communist ticket of La Plata. Alba was reported in April 1948 as a member of the Central Committee of the CPA at La Plata. He had been arrested previously for labor agitation. He has also been reported as the Secretary of Organization of the Comite Provincial por la Paz at La Plata.

Elena Gobbi de Alba, the wife of Ignacio Alba - The Communist daily La Hora of 5 November 1947, named Elena Gobbi de Alba as a member of the Communist Party in Villa Alegra, Buenos Aires Province.

Ing. Omar Jorge Rizzo - The Pueblo Unido of 5 and 10 February 1950 reported that Rizzo was actively campaigning in the Province of Buenos Aires on behalf of Communist candidates to provincial posts.

Dr. Alfredo Douhat - Dr. Douhat, Communist doctor, was previously reported as the former secretary of the CPA at La Plata and former deputy member of the Provincial Committee of the CPA of Buenos Aires.

Irma Lopez - Irma Lopez may be identical with I. Lopez who, according to the Pueblo Unido of 17 February 1950, was actively campaigning at Buenos Aires upon behalf of Communist candidates in the March 1950 elections.

David Rajer (or Raier) - The Pueblo Unido of 9 February 1950 listed David Rajer as a Communist candidate to the post of alternate councilman in the town of San Isidro, a suburb of Buenos Aires.

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