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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Ecuador	REPORT NO.	CS-15592
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

1. In Quito on 20 June 1953 a meeting was held in the assembly hall at the national headquarters of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE), located at 956 Calle Venezuela. The purpose of this meeting was to protest against the execution of the Rosenbergs. Only about 80 persons attended, despite advance circulation of a leaflet invitation and the use of a public address system to exhort people on the street in front of the Party building.
2. Jorge ARELLANO Gallegos, treasurer of the Pichincha Provincial Committee, and Gonzalo VILLALBA Coloma, secretary-general of the Pichincha Provincial Committee, presided at the affair, with VILLALBA delivering the first speech, largely a denunciation of the President of the United States. ARELLANO then offered the floor to anyone who cared to speak, but no one accepted the invitation. After a short wait ARELLANO called for a representative from the Socialist Party to speak. Laura AMESIDA Cabrera, claiming to represent the Socialists, virtually repeated VILLALBA's words in denouncing the execution and imperialism.
3. After AMESIDA had spoken, ARELLANO called for Jose Maria FOUA, member of the Executive Committee of the PCE, to speak. When FOUA did not appear ARELLANO announced that Pedro SAAD, secretary-general of the PCE would take the floor. This apparently came as a surprise to SAAD, since an expression of annoyance crossed his face when the announcement was made. He, however, spoke for an hour without notes, employing his now standard attack against imperialism, capitalism, and the Military Pact, with occasional references to the "martyred" Rosenbergs and to the "cynicism" of the man (the President) who allowed these "heroes" to die. Although the floor was again thrown open for discussion upon conclusion of SAAD's remarks, no one offered to speak, and the session ended on this inconclusive note.

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Content. In Guayaquil the Rosenberg electrocution received sensational press coverage. Though capital punishment is not practiced in Ecuador, the man in the street generally conceded that the Rosenberg couple received just punishment in view of the nature of their crime. The Guayas Provincial Committee of the PCE however, issued large quantities of a leaflet bearing a condemnation of the electrocution of the Rosenbergs.