

DECLASSIFIED
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By *WJ* NARA Date *7/24/88*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Date:

AUG 30 1943

To:

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State

From: J. Edgar Hoover

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Leon Cortes and Teodoro Picado; Political Activity - Costa Rica

For your information, there is being enclosed a memorandum regarding the political activity of the above two candidates in the presidential contest of Costa Rica. This information has been received from a reliable, confidential source and has been made available to the American Embassy at San Jose, Costa Rica.

Enclosure

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

cc - Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Department, Washington, D. C.
Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney



It is the general consensus of opinion among the people that if the election were held at the present time, CORTES would be victorious by a substantial majority. It is very difficult to ascertain definitely how the vote is split at the present time, but outside of the Communist controlled vote, which may number 15,000, the Official Party has no solid backing. The majority of those who might be classed as capitalists are said to be opposed to PICADO, and the official party, because of the Communist penetration into it, and the possibility that if PICADO is elected this Communist influence will be sufficient to put into effect the social laws which will effect them financially. On the other hand, the mass of the peon class or country people place chief emphasis on the high cost of living and attribute full blame on the administration. Also this group is of a very religious character and strongly opposed to Communism.

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