

Photo Record 9/23/40

Uruguay to Put Nazi Party On Trial for Plot to Turn Nation Into Farm Colony

Little Country Defies Germany Before World in
29-Point Indictment Citing Diplomatic Abuses;
Eight Leaders Face Supreme Court.

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MONTEVIDEO, Sept. 22.—With the arrest last night of the last of the eight Nazi leaders indicted Friday on charges of conspiring against Uruguay's sovereignty, South America's smallest republic is preparing to bring Germany's Nazi party to trial before world public opinion.

Sets Precedent.

Several nations have gone to war in an effort to check the Nazi drive for world domination, but little Uruguay is the first which has dared to bring the party and the German Government itself before a court of trial.

The Supreme Court of Justice will sit as a trial court because the eight prisoners are charged with crimes threatening the very existence of the nation. But beyond the guilt or innocence of the eight party agents, the trial will put on court record a Nazi plot to extend Germany's domination to the South American continent.

The indictment, drawn up by Attorney General Luis Alberto Bouzas, covers 80 typewritten pages which, in addition to taking up the charges against the eight arrested agents, contain a 29-point indictment against the party itself, including the charge that it drew up a military plan for the seizure of Uruguay as a German agricultural colony.

Earlier Probe Recalled.

The indictment and arrest of the Nazi leaders is the outcome of an investigation of Nazi activities by the special Congressional investigating committee last May and June. At that time 12 agents, including the eight now re-arrested, were detained several days, then released, and the proceedings dropped.

It seems probable that the

matter would have been allowed to rest there had not the Germans sought vengeance against a young Uruguayan university professor, Hugo Fernandez Artucio, who dug up the original evidence which led to the Congressional investigation. When the proceedings were dropped, the Germans boasted they were going "to get" Fernandez Artucio.

It eventually was arranged for a Nazi-sympathizing editor of a weekly newspaper to bring criminal libel charges against the professor because he charged in his book, "Nazis in Uruguay," that the newspaper was supported by Nazi funds. That move by the Germans led to an outburst of public opinion which found echo in last Thursday's session of the Chamber of Deputies.

Courts Criticized.

All five members of the investigating committee vigorously attacked the Uruguayan courts for not having brought the Nazi agents to trial and dramatically drew a parallel between the liberty of men charged with plotting against the nation and the criminal proceedings against the professor whose private investigations first brought the plotting to light.

The Chamber of Deputies finally voted, with only two dissenting voices, to send a stenographic copy of the day's debate to the Supreme Court and the Minister of the Interior. Next day the Attorney General published his in-

dictment, drawn up nearly two months ago but never issued. Orders were issued for the arrest of the men named in the indictment.

Three were taken into custody in Montevideo Friday and the others were rounded up at interior points yesterday and last night, and brought to Montevideo today.

Fuhrmann Under Arrest.

The men now under arrest are Arnulf Fuhrmann, self-confessed author of the military plot to seize Uruguay; Julio Holzer, leader of the storm troop organization in Uruguay; Rudolf Meissner, prominent Gestapo agent operating in Uruguay, Paraguay, northern Argentina and southern Brazil; Otto Klein, head of the Nazi commercial propaganda organization; Rudolf Paetz, cell organizer in Uruguay and perhaps in Argentina; Adolf Dutine, chief of the support point at Paysandu; Reginald Becker, organizer of Nazi propaganda in Uruguayan schools, and Fred Scofield Gordon, charged with being an international spy acting as liaison agent between the Gestapo in Uruguay and other secret service organizations in South America.

The Congressional investigation uncovered documentary evidence that Fuhrmann maintained direct correspondence with Rudolf Hess, sometimes called the Fuehrer's shadow, and that he was in charge of international plans for armed action throughout South America. Julius Daldorf, the "Little Fuehrer" for Uruguay, is protected from arrest by diplomatic immunity, as he was appointed press attache to the German legation here shortly before the Congressional investigation began.

U. S. Intervened.

It was the disclosure of this Nazi plot which caused the United States to rush the cruisers Quincy and Wichita to Montevideo last June. German pressure both through the legation here and from Berlin direct was so strong the Government preferred to drop the charges despite a formal promise by the United States Government to stand behind Uruguay. The authorities now apparently have decided to brave German pressure rather than longer ignore the nationwide public demand that the Nazi agents be brought to trial.

The following is the text of the 29-point indictment against the Nazi Party in Uruguay:

"1. The German National Socialist Labor Party of the NSDAP (National Socialist Deutsche Arbeiter Partei) exists in Uruguay.

"2. This party is a section of the party which under the same name functions as the only party in Germany.

"3. Union between the two is maintained by the foreign organization of the NSDAP through the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(Handwritten mark)

"4. Our country for territorial purposes of the party's organization abroad is considered as a 'district.'

"5. The party in Germany is a dynamic political element which serves as an instrument of the State for carrying out its plans.

Only Party in Reich.

"6. In accordance with the political structure now in force the Third Reich Party is the only political organization which can exist in Germany.

"7. The party is one with the government in the same way that the government is one with the will of the Fuehrer. The party is the government itself.

"8. The power of the party's Fuehrer, who at the same time is head of the State, is personal, autonomous, authoritative and totalitarian.

"9. The party has as its objectives when its program is complete the internal rebirth of Germany and its predominance abroad.

Charge Military Spirit.

"10. The party's organization is animated by a military spirit.

"11. The NSDAP is an ultranationalist and racial political party which, because of its goals, its organization can never assimilate itself in our country with those cultural, social and charitable associations which customarily bring foreign residents together.

"12. The party in Uruguay has no by-laws. It is governed by the party's sole program of 25 points which constitute the unchangeable catechism of the movement as proclaimed in Munich, February 24, 1920, and furthermore by instructions and regulations sent out by the party's foreign organization.

"13. All members of the NSDAP are obliged as a duty to the party to spread its ideas among German residents in Uruguay.

"14. No one can be a member of the party except German citizens who have accepted the party's program.

"15. Members of the party are obliged to keep away from Uruguayan politics, being even prohibited to converse about it.

Can't Be Citizens.

"16. German residents of our country cannot be legal Uruguayan citizens and at the same time members of the party: They

must choose between Uruguayan citizenship and party membership.

"17. The party constitutes a movement—Bewegung—strongly organized from the top downwards in such a manner that all members of the party are united in relationship of absolute obedience to the party Fuehrer.

"18. Members of the party take oath of fidelity and obedience to the Fuehrer and to party leaders chosen by the Fuehrer.

"19. The party in our country is constructed on the same pattern as in Germany.

"20. In the political and territorial organization there exists the District of Uruguay.

Appointed in Germany.

"21. The political leaders—district fuehrer, leader of the sub-party, chiefs of support points—who are considered to possess sovereign power over party members, are appointed by E. W. Bolhe, head of the party's foreign organization in Germany.

"22. Within this territorial and political organization there function the sectional parties and associated groups such as Storm Troops, Hitler Youth Movement, German Women's League, League of Nazi School Teachers, Winter Relief Movement, Movement for Aid of German Minorities in Non-German Countries, German Engineers Association and the German Labor Front.

"23. All these organizations tend to keep the German community strongly united within the principles of German National Socialism.

Teachers Named Abroad.

"24. Teachers of German schools operating in Uruguay are appointed by the party's foreign organization in Germany.

"25. It has been proved that in at least one school in the interior of Uruguay Nazi holidays are celebrated, and pupils are taught reverence for the names of party leaders in Germany, almost to

worship the Fuehrer, and also the dogma of Germany's greatness.

"26. The party carries out, in our country, intense campaign propaganda by word of mouth, by radio, and in the German and the local press, with officers specially charged with watching and influencing the local newspapers.

Charges Plot.

"27.—There exists a plan to attack the country drawn up by an ardent propagandist of the National Socialist Movement. Preliminary hearings have produced at least semi-conclusive evidence that this plan was discussed and approved.

"28.—The plan for attack against Uruguay contains measures tending to insure the functioning of our country as a German agricultural colony without delay or quibbling, the plan being similar in this respect to those put into effect by the Germans in their recent conquests.

"29.—In our country there is united in one person the duties of the fuehrer for the district of Uruguay, and those of attache to the German Legation."