

Mexico Foils

Mercury Plot

T-H 11/22/41
Four American citizens and two Germans were arrested in Mexico yesterday by Mexican police, on tips furnished by U. S. Naval Intelligence, for trying to smuggle out mercury, it was disclosed last night by Leon Pearson, Times-Herald Latin-American affairs columnist, in his weekly broadcast over WOL.

Cooperation between officials of the two nations in attempting to stop bootlegging of mercury, precious wartime commodity, is another indication of the growing close relations between Mexico and the United States, the columnist said.

Under an agreement between this country and Mexico, mercury cannot legally be exported from Mexico to any country outside of the Western Hemisphere, Pearson reminded his hearers.

Purpose of the agreement was to deny Mexico's exportable surplus of mercury to Japan, and other axis countries. Yesterday's arrests, Pearson commented, are a dramatic indication that the axis is prepared to take desperate steps to get the valuable commodity for which their war machines hunger.