

Axis Bases Dot Latin America, House Told

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The special House committee investigating air transportation reported last night that the Axis powers have honeycombed Latin America with air bases, fuel and arms storage depots and short-wave radio stations.

The committee toured most of the American Republics last month. It told the House it had uncovered evidence that:

1. The Axis controls five airports in Guatemala within easy bombing distance of the Panama Canal, and that two crack German air force fliers have been assigned to the German legation at Guatemala; that the Axis controls strategic airports in Brazil, just across from Africa.

2. Vast stocks of aviation gasoline and oil are known to have been built up in Brazil, and further reserves may exist in storage tanks hidden along the great Brazilian coast line or up the Amazon River.

3. An arms storehouse for rifles, ammunition, pistols, hand grenades and other arms has been established at a Japanese colony 30 miles from Cali, on the Pacific side of the Andes Mountains in Colombia.

4. That the German legation in Guatemala City has "no less than 14 short-wave receiving sets.

5. That the German Ambassador

in Mexico City is chief of the German Gestapo in Latin America. And that the Gestapo has set up its "own secret court system" in Guatemala, and that violators and "offenders of Nazi law, Nazi regulations and Nazi philosophy are tried and punished."

6. That the Nazis have perfected plans for the sabotaging of all utilities of the city of Buenos Aires "and that in a crisis they could probably establish an operating base in Argentina and cause considerable difficulty.

7. That German agents concealed a complete short-wave broadcasting unit in a diplomatic pouch seized by agents of the Argentine government.

8. That "merchant vessel departures from the United States across the Atlantic have been communicated in code to Mexico City and then by short wave transmitted to Nazi authorities in Germany."

9. That a German air force reserve officer has established an airport, possibly with a radio station, in the western end of Colombian plainland near Boa Visto; that there are about 30 recognized airplane landing strips in the area.

10. That Nazi agents hatched a revolt in the Argentine air force in a Buenos Aires cafe known as Diese's Cafe.

11. That extensive aerial photos of northern South America were taken by German airline pilots.

The report was signed by Chairman Jack Nichols (Democrat), Oklahoma, and Representatives Richard M. Kleberg (Democrat), Texas; Herron Pearson (Democrat), Tennessee; Everett M. Dirksen (Republican), Illinois, and Carl Hinshaw (Republican), California.

The committee recommended the State Department take counter-measures at once.