

# The Political Mill *Jan 12/20/44*

## House Given Report of Widespread Activity By Nazi Powers in Latin America

By GOULD LINCOLN.

A Latin America honeycombed with Nazi, Fascist and Japanese agents, with strategic airlines in German and Italian hands, and with potential air bases from which to attack both the United States and "hemispheric solidarity," is pictured in a report just made to the House by its select committee to investigate air accidents. The report, submitted by Chairman Jack Nichols of Oklahoma of the committee, declares; "It is absolutely imperative that our State Department, together with others in authority, be directed to complete negotiations without further delay, to the end that the Italian operated Lati be supplanted with United States operation and equipment, and that the Condor operation be scrupulously de-Germanized, and, furthermore, that negotiations be completed for the use of United States capital and equipment to



replace German and Italian capital and equipment on all South American airlines."

Lati is an Italian airline which operates from Rome to Rio de Janeiro via Dakar and Natal, and then to Buenos Aires. Its full name is the Linea Aeree Transcontinentale Italiane. It flies a route of 5,600 miles. The line has had a Brazilian operating permit since June, 1939, and is a subsidiary of the Italian government owned national airline.

Germans organized the first successful airlines in South America in the early 1920s. Started as commercial enterprises, these lines changed when the National Socialist government took command in Germany, and became "largely propagandistic, and even semimilitary in intent," the committee report asserts. The spearhead has been the Brazilian incorporated Sindicato Condor.

### Extensive Investigation.

The report of the committee, which is based, Mr. Nichols in-

sists, on well-authenticated facts, reads like a detailed secret service report. The select committee spent a month flying the length and breadth of Latin America, visiting the principal cities in both South and Central America. Questions of national defense and hemispheric defense naturally entered into the subject of international operation of commercial airlines, and the committee has gone thoroughly into these. Its report has been made so that members of Congress "may be adequately apprized of the extent of the Nazi organization and Nazi activity in various countries of Latin America."

"In all these countries," the report continues, "there is a strong awareness of the danger that threatens from the subversive activities of the Axis powers, including closely knit military or semimilitary organizations known to exist."

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, the report asserts, there are 2,200 agents of the German Gestapo now operating. "There is reason to believe," it says, "that a large contingent of storm troopers has been organized and that secret drilling is now in progress. Buenos Aires has a German population which exceeds 250,000. It has been indicated to the committee that the Italian population is even larger." The city, of 2,000,000 population, has been divided into 56 districts with Nazi "cells" in each. An incipient revolt in the Argentine Air Corps was inspired by Nazi agents. The training planes used in the Argentine army are of German design. "The committee knows," the report adds, "that the German Embassy operates its own printing

plant and only recently it printed the speeches delivered by a United States Senator and Charles A. Lindbergh, and gave them wide distribution in Argentina to impress people there with the fact that disunity exists in the United States.

#### Many Japanese in Peru.

The report says "it is definitely known that there are more than 22,000 registered Japanese in the city of Lima, Peru, and there is reason to believe that the number exceeds 30,000." It points out that the Nazis are very active in Peru, too; that Peru is rich in oil, copper, lead, and that it would offer no great difficulty for an invading force to take over and operate the oil fields of Northern Peru."

Chile, also, has its German population, and "the very best diplomats from Germany, Spain and Italy are now co-ordinating their activities in order to break down the cordial relationship which has existed between Chile and the United States."

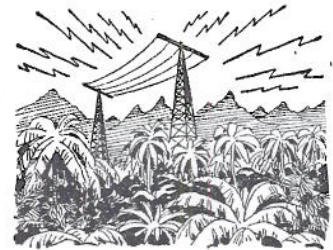
Colombia the committee regards as a special hazard to the United States, with a German organized airline, the Scadta. "It is a fair inference that there exist today in Germany perhaps more than 100 military pilots who have flown the length and breadth of Colombia and are conversant with every square mile of its terrain." A Japanese colony, located 30 miles from Cali on the Pacific Coast has become a "veritable storehouse for rifles, ammunition, pistols and hand grenades, all of which were imported under the misleading appellation of farm machinery." Representations have been made to the Colombian government to confiscate this material.

Seventy thousand Nazis are found in Guatemala, which Hitler has "affectionately referred to as the Little Reich."

Five of the 18 airports there are owned by the Nazis.

#### Facilities in Brazil Cited.

Of the greatest immediate interest to this country, the committee report holds, is the situation in Brazil. "The bulge of Brazil," it says, "is the landing and take-off point for flights to and from Africa and Europe. \* \* \* The former line Air France has extensive airport and radio facilities here, as has the German line Lufthansa—now used by Lati." There is radio directional equipment installed on the island Fernando de Noronha, 200 miles off shore in the direction of Dakar, from which an attack might be launched by the Nazis. The Axis controlled airlines had accumulated large stocks of aviation gasoline, far beyond any possible



requirement of their commercial aviation. The Brazilian government has taken steps to force a reduction of these stocks.

In Mexico, it was disclosed to the committee that short-wave radio stations abound in the jungles. "The committee has reason to believe 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. \* \* \* It is believed that the German Ambassador in Mexico City is the head of the Gestapo for the North American Continent." A number of the short-wave stations have been confiscated by the Mexican government at the instance of United States officers.

Mr. Nichols believes that it is of vital interest to national and hemispheric defense that this government move promptly to carry out the suggestions made in the committee's report.