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REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

GUERRA ENTRE EE.UU. Y LOS PAISES DEL EJE

Expediente 26 Tomo XIX - Anexo IX **Año** 1945. 1946.

ACTITUD DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

Embajada estadounidense informa sobre las firmas luxemburguesas "ARBED", "COLUMETA" y "The Electric Holding Compa ny.-

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Juan Domingo Perón y Alemania
Rs. 26

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ANOTADO

EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

M E M O R A N D U M

La Embajada desea solicitar la atención sobre las inversiones en la Argentina de las siguientes firmas luxemburguesas, las que se tiene entendido forman parte de la misma empresa:

Acieries Reunies de Burbach-Eich-Dedelange "ARBED";

Comptoir Metallurgique Luxemburgeois "COLUMETA";

The Electric Holding Company

Es notorio que estas firmas han estado en comunicación con su pretendida filial en Alemania, Felton und Guilleaume Carlswerk A.G., de Koln Mulhein, después del estallido de la guerra en Europa. Se tienen informes de que los intereses de propiedad de estas distintas firmas están ahora en manos alemanas.

La Comisión de Control Aliada está investigando actualmente el carácter de este grupo luxemburgués, la naturaleza de sus inversiones en el exterior y el tipo de control o influencia ejercido sobre las mismas.

Se tiene entendido que este grupo luxemburgués tiene intereses importantes en al menos las cuatro firmas argentinas siguientes:

S.A. Talleres Metalúrgicos San Martín "TAMET"
Chacabuco 132, Buenos Aires

Cía. Fibrocemento Monolit S.A. Industrial y Comerci
Chacabuco 132, Buenos Aires

Comptoir Metallurgique Luxembourgeois "COLUMETA".S.A.
Exmeralda 886, Buenos Aires

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Sociedad Electro Metalúrgica Argentina, S.A. "SEMA"
Belgrano 857

Se sabe que por lo menos hasta agosto de 1943 las firmas locales recibían y aceptaban instrucciones emanadas de la zona de Luxemburgo ocupada por los alemanes. Se cree absolutamente posible que se hayan hecho otras inversiones de importancia en la Argentina en nombre de este grupo luxemburgués

La Embajada agradecería se le informara si las autoridades competentes del Gobierno Argentino, Después de proceder a una investigación de las firmas locales mencionadas, se encuentran en condiciones de confirmar la existencia de dichas inversiones, y de otras que pudieran existir, y, en caso afirmativo recibiría con agrado cualquier información de interés para el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos o para las investigaciones ordinarias de la Comisión de Control Aliada.

Buenos Aires, 10 de setiembre de 1945.

(L.S.)

Es traducción

20 de setiembre de 1945

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EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

M E M O R A N D U M

La Embajada desea solicitar la atención sobre las tres firmas siguientes:

Danubio Sociedad Anónima de Hilandería y Tejeduría
Moreno 1199, Buenos Aires

Intela, Industria Textil Lanera, S.A.
Moreno 1199, Buenos Aires

Manue Schirinian & Cía.
Montevideo 535, Buenos Aires

cuyos poseedores y propietarios se cree tienen, o han tenido, importantes intereses conexos en Italia y Rumania.

Es interesante saber que el capital de dichas firmas aumentó rápidamente desde la primitiva organización en 1936 de "Danubio", y que, en diversas ocasiones, se ha informado que las firmas han recibido remesas de fuertes sumas desde Europa.

Un informe ha requerido la atención de la Embajada al efecto de que una o todas esas firmas poseen o administran bienes de Estados enemigos o de nacionales de los mismos.

La Embajada agradecería se le informara si las autoridades competentes del Gobierno Argentino se encuentran en condiciones de confirmar los informes de referencia y, en caso afirmativo, le sería grato recibir cualquier información detallada acerca de ello que pueda considerarse de interés para el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Buenos Aires, 10 de setiembre de 1945.

(I.S.)

Es traducción
20 de setiembre de 1945

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Conversar con los miembros de la Junta de Vigilancia, Hacerles conocer el memorandum de la Embajada de Estados Unidos y obtener sus puntos de vista acerca de la procedencia de una investigación de:

S.A. Talleres Metalúrgicos San Martín "TAMET"
Chacabuco 132, Buenos Aires

Cía. Fibrocemento Monolit S.A., Industrial y Comercial
Chacabuco 132, Buenos Aires

Comptoir Metallurgique Luxembourgeois "COLUMETA", S.A.
Esmeralda 886, Buenos Aires

Sociedad Electro Metalúrgica Argentina, S.A. "SEMA"
Belgrano 857.

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DUPLICATE

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Anexo IX

FICHADO

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and has the honor to refer to the hearings before a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate, Seventy-Ninth Congress, First Session, pursuant to Senate Resolution 107 (78th Congress) and Senate Resolution 146 (79th Congress), authorizing a study of war mobilization problems. Particularly, reference is made to Part 7 of such hearings, entitled "I.G. Farben Material Submitted by the War Department".

The public document of the United States referred to contains several passages which the Embassy believes may be of interest to the Argentine Government, and which passages it accordingly quotes as follows:

"In anticipation of Allied victory, thousands of Farben's secrets went underground along with other

German

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
of the Argentine Republic

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German resources to lay the foundation for World War III; and thousands of its important files were, according to the testimony of its responsible officials, destroyed just prior to the advent of the Allied troops. The investigation reported herein, however, has confirmed what heretofore have been mere speculations; and has uncovered a wealth of evidence proving conclusively (1) that without I.G.'s immense productive affiliations, Germany's prosecution of the war would have been unthinkable and impossible (2) that Farben not only directed its energies toward arming Germany, but concentrated on weakening her intended victims, and (3) that this double-barreled attempt to expand the German industrial potential for war and to restrict that of the rest of the world was not conceived and executed 'in the normal course of business'. The proof is overwhelming that I. G. Farben officials had full knowledge of Germany's plan for world conquest and of each specific aggressive act later undertaken pursuant thereto,

<u>that</u>

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that they planned their operations accordingly and anticipated expanding their empire on the plunder acquired." (Pages 943 and 944)

"I. G. Farben's organization, both domestic and international, served the Nazi government as a principal agency for economic espionage throughout the world. I.G.'s N. W. 7 office in Berlin, originally organized in the 1920's as I.G.'s liaison office with the various governmental agencies in Berlin, was transformed by Dr. Max Ilgner into the economic intelligence arm of the Wehrmacht. Ilgner was also a member of I.G.'s managing board of directors. This organization is described in detail below, but some indication of its tremendous expansion in preparation for and during the war may be gathered from the fact that its expenditures in 1943 were RM. 7,000,000 as compared with RM. 997,000 in 1932. The largest and most sinister department of N. W. 7 was the so-called statistical department (VOWI) which was formed by Dr. Ilgner in 1929. This department,

<u>which</u>

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which became in fact the economic intelligence arm of the Wehrmacht, was obviously unjustified from a business point of view, and the purpose and nature of its research and market inquiries were evidently mystifying to some of the commercial employees of I.G. who were not in on the secret. Dr. Ilgner received the strong support of top I.G. officials and the government, and soon his brain child was flourishing under the expert direction of one Dr. Reithinger. Reithinger was particularly well qualified for this job of super-espionage. In addition to his outstanding ability as a statistician, economist, and analyst, he had traveled extensively in many foreign countries, including the United States, England, France, and Russia. During his travels Reithinger had carefully cultivated the friendship of persons and institutions influential and important in the fields of economics and statistics, and had arranged an intense exchange of statistical work with the various statistical organizations in Germany

and

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and abroad.' Reithinger's department was staffed with men of recognized ability. They began immediately to compile comprehensive statistics dealing with the economic, financial and social life of many foreign countries." (Page 947)

"The N. W. 7 office had contact men all over the world called the I. G. Verbindungsmänner. The Verbindungsmänner, in the main, were officials of the leading I.G. firm in the particular country. One of the principal duties of these Verbindungsmänner was to submit monthly reports pertaining to economic, political and military matters. With respect to politics, the reports included such subjects as internal political developments, the composition of new governments, the effects of the Proclaimed List and the British Black List, inter-American security, labor, immigration, political reactions within the respective countries to current events, pro-Axis and anti-Axis propaganda, and the purposes of special diplomatic missions.

Matters

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Matters of vital military interest contained in these reports included a discussion of additions to the merchant navies in various Latin American countries, a reporting of ship movements (including convoys), statistics concerning tonnage in ports, port facilities, construction of new highways and bridges, the condition of rail transportation between the Latin American countries, the operations of Pan American Grace Air Lines, shipments of war materials to the United States and Great Britain, the Argentine military mission to the United States, rearmament in Chile, and the acquisition of air and naval bases by the United States." (Pages 949 and 950)

"I.G. organized for its large-scale part in the Nazi propaganda program in the same careful, efficient way it had in the case of other war operations. It first acted to assure that all I. G. Farben agents abroad were thoroughgoing Nazis. On September 10, 1937, the all-important commercial committee of the board of

directors

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directors of I. G. Farben passed a resolution which stated in part as follows:

> 'It is hereby understood that in no case will men be sent to our foreign companies who do not belong to the German Labor Front and who do not possess a positive attitude toward the New Order. The men who are to be sent should make it their special duty to represent National Socialist Germanhood. Especially are they to be instructed that upon entering our companies they are to make contact with the Ortsgruppe of the respective Landesgruppen (organization of the Nazi Party within the various countries) and regularly participate in their meetings as well as in the Labor Front. The sales departments should also see to it that an appropriate amount of national socialistic literature is given to them. The cooperation with the A. O. must become more organic. It appears pratical, together with the A. O., to work out a uniform plan, for the purpose of detecting defects still existing in our foreign companies to the end that they can be eliminated.'

Needless to say, this policy was faithfully executed. Moreover, as was pointed out above, the Verbindungsmänner were, in all cases, highly trusted agents carefully selected by N. W. 7 and approved by the Auslands organization (the foreign organization of the Nazi Party)." (Page 950)

"I.G. worked directly with the 'Aufklärungs Ausschuss' the overseas propaganda department of the German Government, in disseminating anti-American

propaganda

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propaganda in Argentina. Thus, in 1939, Farben reviewed for this German propaganda organization a series of 381 articles against the United States for publication in Argentine newspapers, suggesting the names of newspapers in Buenos Aires which could be used effectively for the dissemination of such articles. For this purpose, Farben made available to the German propaganda department the services of Heinrich Homann, I. G. Verbindungsmann for Argentina. Farben, which had, for years been engaged in the dessemination of pro-German propaganda in Latin America through the schools, the press, and libraries, was particularly effective in securing wide distribution of Nazi propaganda. One of its customary devices for obtaining publication of propaganda was the club of its advertising. Thus, for example, in February 1938, the pharmaceutical department of I.G. agreed on the following advertising policy:

'Advertsiing in journals hostile to Germany shall

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shall on all terms be avoided. Commercial and advertising considerations have to be put in the background as compared with the more important political point of view.'" (Pages 950 and 951)

"All of the I.G. Latin American firms maintained, unrecorded in their books, secret cash accounts in banks in the names of their leading officials. These accounts were used to receive and to disburse payments of a confidential nature as, for example, the proceeds of sales to firms who did not want to be discovered dealing with the Proclaimed List I.G. companies. These are the famous S accounts and S finance offices, of which little has been known in the past. The assets thereby secreted, ostensibly unaffected with the Axis taint, were free to finance espionage and propaganda, to bribe, to pay the salaries of Nazi foreign agents, and to give them the wherewithal to carry out their work." (Page 951)

"The problem of determining the amount and location of I.G.'s external assets is complicated by the firm's long-standing habit of camouflaging or cloaking its foreign subsidiaries as independent national companies

<u>having</u>

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having no apparent legal tie to the parent concern. I.G. publicly admitted to ownership in only relatively few companies. To discover the rest requires painstaking investigation of the records relating to hundreds of companies situated in every corner of the globe." (Page 969)

"As early as 1937, when leading officials of I.G. saw the signs of impending war, really thoroughgoing measures of camouflage began to be taken to prevent the possible seizure or confiscation of I.G. assets in endangered countries. In the spring of 1939 I.G.'s legal committee discussed in considerable detail the measures which might be required to protect their foreign properties. Citing the experience of the First World War, the committee concluded that:

> 'The risk of seizure of the sales organization in the event of war is minimized if the holders of similar interests are neutrals residing in neutral countries. Such a distribution of holdings of shares or other interests has the further advantage of forestalling any conflicts which may trouble the conscience of an enemy national who will inevitably be caught between his patriotic feelings and his loyalty to I.G. A further advantage is that the neutral, in case of war, generally retains his freedom of movement, while enemy nationals are frequently called into the service of

<u>their</u>

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their country, in various capacities, and, therefore, can no longer take care of business matters.'" (Pages 970 and 971)

"It is interesting to note that the German tax authorities themselves were not informed of the details of these protective measures and from time to time attempted to assess the extent of I.G.'s foreign holdings. On one occasion they were urged by the company's lawyers, however, that injury to German interests could easily result from prosecuting such inquiries, and in the end the authorities did refrain from further investigation." (Page 971)

"Although I.G. officials used great ingenuity in camouflaging the ownership of the company's many foreign branches and participations, they were well aware both of the limitations of the techniques used and of the risks of discovery which they ran during the war. They realized that if their camouflaged ownership of a firm were detected, the entire assets of the company would probably be vested or even confiscated. They therefore prepared a second line of defense and sought to conceal

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sizeable portions of the surpluses earned by the cloaked firms -- surpluses which they often could no longer transfer to Germany even if they so wished -- thus spreading the risk of discovery of the firms, and at the same time providing a fund which could later be used to rebuild I.G. organizations. Various methods were used, ranging from the use of false invoices, fake bonus payments to employees, to the camouflaged investment of company funds in cattle ranches, houses, and various other types of real estate." (Page 972)

"After the outbreak of the war in September 1939, the Anglo-French navicert control system, designed to prevent the export of German goods to enemy (German) firms in overseas countries and thus to shut off Germen foreign exchange supplies, threatened to cut that life line and by the same token to destroy these valuable assets. The German company took two main courses of action to combat these measures and thus

retain

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retain control over its assets. First it attempted indirectly to nourish its offspring, especially in Latin America, by arranging for deliveries to them by firms in neutral countries, notably the United States, the only neutral able to supply such goods in any quantity. Second, I.G. attempted to maintain its exports to foreign agencies by running the blockade.

"The story of I.G.'s attempts to support its Latin American agencies by arranging for imports from neutrals is largely the story of the activities of Alfredo E. Moll, one of the managers of Anilinas Alemanas, Buenos Aires. Moll at first acted as an under-cover purchasing agent in New York. Later, after the Proclaimed List and export licensing system went into effect, he transferred his activities to Buenos Aires. The story of Moll's operations can best be told from excerpts of correspondence and from statements of I.G. officials.

"The plan to have Moll act as intermediary in the

United

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United States was discussed in detail at important conferences on cloaking policy held in Italy and Switzerland early in 1940. The manner in which Moll was to operate is revealed in the minutes of the conferences:

> 'A detailed discussion has proved that a delivery of goods of neutral firms to dummy addresses of whatever kind cannot be upheld for any length of time. Therefore in future purchase of neutral goods only through reliable customers directly, who will retain part of the goods, purchased in this manner for themselves, the larger part will, however, be resold to the agency. There were also no objections raised against this arrangement for the delivery from the States by Mr. Schmitz and Dr. Duisberg. In this manner there exists for the neutral suppliers the least risk imaginable. According to the opinion of Mr. M., customers will be found in practically all the Latin American States for carrying through these transactions.....
>
> 'The correspondence with the neutral suppliers would therefore have to be done by their customers .....and should be started by saying for instance that German goods are no longer available on the market and that therefore an offer in counter products at the ruling market prices would be required, etc.
>
> 'The individual suppliers who would be available have been discussed with Mr. M.
>
> 'The most important source of delivery in the very near future will undoubbedly be the United States of America. As the matter stands, Fezandie and Sperrle may appear as suitable suppliers.....In any case Herr M. will endeavor that the suppliers agree to c.i.f. terms and effect the insurance in the States as transportation of goods of United States property is thus safer.....'

"Moll travelled from Italy to New York on March 9,

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1940, where he undertook the task of obtaining merchandise for the I.G. firms in Latin America. By October 1940 I.G. had heard that 'deliveries were progressing smoothly' but had received no general report. Richard Metz, an American citizen who in 1940 was connected with I.G.'s Central Finance Administration in Berlin, was travelling to the United States in October of that year, and was asked to deliver a message requesting that Moll forward a report of his activities. (Metz is the son of Hermann A. Metz, deceased, formerly a principal I.G. figure in the United States). I.G. in its request to Metz stated:

> '.....It would be very suitable if this report was sent off from Mexico or even made out in Mexico for reforwarding in neutral form via Peru or Brazil. It would be advisable for Mr. Moll to make use of a short leave to travel by auto to Mexico.....'

"Pursuant to instructions, Moll journeyed to Mexico in December 1940, and from there he sent I.G. two reports. In the first he wrote:

> 'I believe I can assure you that it was possible by means of patient and persistent

work

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work to arrive at a normal and lasting relationship between New York and all important centers in Latin America by suggesting to New York at first to modify its original fixed price policy.. ...Of course it is very difficult for the gentlemen in New York to make up their minds about conditions in Latin America, especially considering that they are used to a stable market as in the United States of America. But I may especially express here the friendly attitude and fair cooperation noticeable with Mr. Halbach and Mr. Neisser (both of General Dyestuffs Corp.) (Page 974) who try to help as much as they can.....

'According to the official figures of New York, United States $1,218,345 was exported from the beginning (of Moll's activity) till November.. ...I assure you that it was possible despite many obstacles to supply all countries which you formerly supplied, and that no one is missing from the list.....These figures show us that Chile and Colombia received practically their whole sales volume, but Mexico, Brazil and Argentina lost a part of their sales, even respecting their great stocks, when relations to you were interrupted partly by the activity of competitors and partly by the refusal of customers (to cooperate in the scheme).'

And in the second:

'.....We have observed with great satisfaction that the sales of the Advance (Advance Solvents & Chemical Corp., New York) to our Latin-American houses are constantly increasing, which proves that our connections are more secure. Latin America pass on their orders mainly to friendly firms, which, when the situation becomes complicated, will do everything possible with a view to continuing the deliveries under all circumstances.'

By June 1941, however, economic controls, the Proclaimed List and the system of export licenses then being put into force by the United States had seriously

curtailed

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curtailed Moll's activities, and he returned to Argentina.

After Moll returned to Argentina on June 17, 1941, he ostensibly became separated from Anilinas and thus was able to resume merchandise purchases from the United States. His method of operating was to place orders in the United States for firms not on the Proclaimed List, including with those orders goods which were upon arrival in Buenos Aires to be transferred to Anilinas Alemanas. According to Overhoff, the advisability of Moll's separation from I.G. had been previously discussed in the 1940 conferences in Italy and Switzerland:

> '.....We discussed also the possibility that Moll should leave Anilinas Alemanas if necessary, and act separately, perhaps as a dealer. Of course, even in that case, it was the idea, that his work should be in the interest of I.G.' (Page 975)

Moll proceeded to set himself up as an independent importer. There is evidence to indicate, however, that the separation was more apparent than real.

On October 15, 1941, for example, Flinsch, co-manager with Moll of Anilinas Alemanas, wrote from

Buenos

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Buenos Aires:

'.....After Mr. Moll had left my firm in last June, in pursuance of this exchange of cables, and accordingly severed all his connections with it, insofar as was necessary with regard to outside appearances, the old close and friendly contact with Moll and the management of my firm continued.....'

'Consequently, the management of my firm was always informed in advance of all activities and plans of Moll with respect to the establishment of business relations with the United States of America which was contemplated. This also envisaged the inherent possibility of supplying my firm with goods. In other words, everything was discussed and executed by joint determination.' (Page 975)

The close working relationship that existed between the representatives of N. W. 7 and the Auslands-Organization (foreign organization of the Nazi Party) is clearly defined in a report made by Max Ilgner upon his return from Latin America in 1936."

'.....it is pleasing to know that the cooperation with the German authorities during the last years (I have continuously been able to make these observations during all my travels) has improved and been intensified, and also in particular the cooperation with the foreign organization of the Nazi Party is continually developing in a more and more positive direction. It is known that in this respect the attitudes on both sides were not always the same during the first few years, and it is for this reason all the more gratifying, as I could ascertain during my travels through Latin America that this state of affairs is a thing of the past.' (Page 998)

APPENDIX A

This

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"This appendix contains a primary, but not all-inclusive working list of external assets owned or controlled directly by I. G. Farben.....The list set forth below is geographically alphabetized into the major subdivisions of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific islands. Some 93 countries are listed. Under the individual countries are listed the names and locations of the firms in question."(Page 1027)

V. LATIN AMERICA

64. Argentina:

1. Anilinas Alemanas S.A., Buenos Aires

2. Agfa Argentina-Dr. Kurt Oppenheim y Cia., Buenos Aires

3. Farma Platense S. de R.L., Buenos Aires

4. Instituto Behring de Terapeutica Experimental, S. de R.L., Buenos Aires

5. Laboratorios Suarry S.A., Buenos Aires

6. La Química Bayer, S.A., Buenos Aires

7. "Monopol" Sociedad Anonima Química Industrial y Commercial, Buenos Aires

8. Soc. An. Ind. & Com. Electroclor, Buenos Aires

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9. La Plata Ozalid, S. de R.L., Buenos Aires

10. Weyland, Sigrido, Buenos Aires
(Page 1034)

APPENDIX B

"This appendix presents certain material which may be of interest concerning Latin-American firms in which I. G. Farben held participations. (Page 1037)

Monopol Sociedad Responsibilidad Ltda., Buenos Aires

The firm Monopol S.R.L., an Argentine chemical factory, had been purchased by Indunidas Sociedad Anónima Mercantil de Industrias Unidas of Buenos Aires in 1938. Indunidas is owned by the banking firm of Carl Hinrich Donner of Hamburg, and has for years handled the sale of certain I.G. chemical products in Argentina. In October 1939 Anilinas Alemanas, S.A., Buenos Aires, and Indunidas came to an agreement containing a guaranty of the profits to be earned by Indunidas from Monopol, and giving to I.G. an option to purchase 51 percent of the shares of Monopol. I.G. was also given the right to purchase the remaining

shares

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shares in the event of a dispute with Indunidas.

A copy of this agreement is in the possession of the United States Government."(Page 1041)

"On June 27, 1942, Anilinas Alemanas, S.A., Buenos Aires, cabled I.G.:

> '.....In order to compensate for the national foundation, market and customers' positions which Anilinas lost because of Electroclor, we have made use of the option for the 51 percent participation in Monopol, and have purchased this for approcimately P. 370,000. We hope to enlarge the position of Monopol on the market by our assured influence in Monopol and by further friendly collaboration and participation of Indunidas, in spite of the well-known difficulties of getting raw materials.....'

"A statement by Fritz H. Walloth, the chemical division's agency sales controller, concerning the background of the Monopol and Indunidas transactions is in the possession of the United States Government." (Page 1042)

If the Ministry desires, a copy of the complete pamphlet containing the hearings, this Embassy will be pleased to request a copy from Washington.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to review to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship the assurances of its highest consideration.

Buenos Aires, January 31, 1946

Embassy of the United States of America
BUENOS AIRES

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Buenos Aires, febrero 4de 1946.

Pase a la Oficina de Traducciones a fin de que se sirva verter al castellano el texto de la nota precedente, de muy con caracter/urgente.xxx

Fdo. Bunge

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REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

GUERRA CON ALEMANIA Y JAPON

Expediente 1 TOMO IV Año 1945

Anexo IV

Sra. Nélida B. de Morikawa solicita que quede sin efecto la internación de su esposo Toshio Morikawa, funcionario de la ex-Embajada japonesa, y de nacionalidad argentino.-

Guerra con Alemania y Japón Exp.1 T.IV A.IV

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