



1941

## NAZI ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA, AND PARTICULARLY BUENOS AIRES, IS REPORTED TO BE THE FOCAL POINT OF AXIS ESPIONAGE, PROPAGANDA AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN SOUTH AMERICA, ESPECIALLY NAZI ACTIVITIES, AND FOR THIS REASON ARGENTINA IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FROM AN INTELLIGENCE STANDPOINT.

OF THE 13,236,061 INHABITANTS OF ARGENTINA, BETWEEN 110,000 AND 135,000 ARE GERMAN-BORN OR PERSONS OF GERMAN DESCENT, AND ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT THE LARGEST OF THE FOREIGN GROUPS IN ARGENTINA, IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL AND HIGHLY ORGANIZED.

THERE ARE BETWEEN 2,000,000 AND 2,200,000 INDIVIDUALS OF ITALIAN DESCENT IN ARGENTINA, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT IN THE PAST THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN QUICKLY ASSIMILATED BY THE ARGENTINES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN REGARD TO ESPIONAGE, PROPAGANDA OR THOSE OF A SUBVERSIVE NATURE HAVE NOT BEEN WIDESPREAD, UNIFIED OR OF ANY GREAT IMPORTANCE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE JAPANESE SITUATION, IT IS ALMOST NEGATIVE, AS THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 3,500 PERSONS OF JAPANESE DESCENT IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE JAPANESE ARE OF A COMMERCIAL NATURE AND THEY APPEAR TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA THAN IN SECURING INFORMATION OF AN ESPIONAGE NATURE OR ENGAGING IN PROPAGANDA OR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

COMMUNISTIC ESPIONAGE, PROPAGANDA AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES ARE AT A MINIMUM IN ARGENTINA, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT ARGENTINE LAWS DIRECTED AGAINST COMMUNISM, THE LACK OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY, THE PREPONDERANCE OF AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND THE APPARENT LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
DIRECTOR

