

Exhibit A

Translation
Smith/Hern

Strictly Confidential

for Director Dr. Ilgner.

Discussion with
Mr. Von Thermann

Dr. O/F.F./ba.

10th January 1941.

Shortly before Christmas Mr. von Thermann has started on a trip to Spain by airplane. He will do all he can to secure the re-establishment of a direct German air-line to South America. The German pilots of the Condor-Syndicate are leading an idle life in Brazil because - as it is well known - only pilots born in Brazil are allowed to fly machines of the Condor Syndicate according to the latest stipulations of the Brazilian Government whereas the German pilots are only naturalized Brazilians. As the concession granted to the German Lufthansa has not expired yet, a resumption of the flight of German machines to Brazil would be possible. Mr. von Thermann was of the opinion that the sudden stop at the beginning of the war was due to a personal interference of Marshall Goring.

For the maintenance of the good relations still existing between Germany and the Argentine Republic he considers it absolutely necessary that at least also a citizen of Argentina should visit Germany again in order to obtain a direct impression about the actual effects of the war in order to counteract the hostile propoganda by personal inspection. We think it best that Chief Engineer Brandt will be informed of this matter and be requested to see to it that a distinguished high officer of the Argentine army accompanies him in February on a trip to Germany by airplane. Hereby a plausible reason could best be found (Powder works Villa Maria).

We have been advised by Mr. von Thermann that the "Landesgruppenleiter" (Representative of the National Socialist Party) Muller who has been known in connection with the Patagonian affair, has been staying in Germany since July 1940 and apparently does not obtain a visa from the Argentine Government for the return to Argentina.

Mr. Vollberg, who is looking after his business during his absence, is a former employee of Mr. Homann. According to Mr. von Thermann this Mr. Vollberg is said to behave very injudiciously and rudely in his intercourse with the Anilinas Alemanas. Continual difficulties are the consequence thereof. Thus he demands that the Anilinas Alemanas pass themselves off as a German firm.

Our discussion regarding questions of camouflage (Tarnung) resulted in a perfect understanding especially also as to the fact that, after a victorious end of the war, the affairs of the South American countries have to be taken into due consideration. We have asked Mr. von Thermann to apply also to the A.O. in this connection. We informed him about the negotiations carried on by us during the last few months with the A.O., particularly about those with the Deputy Gauleiter Mr. Hess personally. As it is known, same had resulted in an agreement with the A.O. re questions on camouflage regarding Latin America. Especially the form and distribution of shares of the Anilinas Alemanas, as it exists at present (wholly Argentine capital) have been explicitly sanctioned by the A.O.

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Mr. von Thermann made the proposal to inform the management of the Anilinas Alemanas confidentially thereof, so that one could point out to Mr. Vollberg that the camouflage has been undertaken in conformity with the competent authorities of the Government. He offered personally to take with him a respective letter.

As to the conditions prevailing in Argentina he briefly stated the following. In spite of various assertions to the contrary the state of health of President Ortiz may be taken as weakened to such an extent that one could not reckon any more with his active execution of office. His representative Castillo surely has a better understanding for German and Italian affairs than Ortiz and has personally taken great pains shortly before his departure for a settlement of existing differences. Thus one could certainly not speak of an anti German attitude at least among the members of the Argentine Government (present conditions in Brazil might be viewed in a yet more favourable light owing to the personality of Getulio Vargas).

As to Uruguay Mr. von Thermann stated that the conditions in that country were different from those in Argentina and Brazil inasmuch as, on account of the economical situation the dependence on England and the USA was so great that an uninfluenced policy was not possible. As to the well-known question of a base one might even presume that the leading ministers of Uruguay have been subject to a direct influence. Still, the Argentine Government have succeeded by timely interference in disturbing the negotiations which had already been very far advanced in such a way that, on account of the insertion of the neighbouring states Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Chile now provided for, the settlement of the question of a base has been put off for the time being. Of course, Argentina would not be in a position to undertake anything by force of arms against a sudden attack of the U.S.A. near the mouth of the Rio de la Plata or against a cession of the Falkland Islands by England to USA.

The public opinion in Argentina is not friendly towards the U.S.A. As heretofore, the country is thinking to be the leading Latin American power against the aspirations of the hegemony of USA. In consonance with Mall Mr. von Thermann indicated the line whereto the absolute influence of USA reaches today, the boundary being the Northern frontier of Peru and Brazil.

As regards the question of admission of emigrants, the Argentine Government have meanwhile decided to take energetic measures. A further immigration has been stopped, so to speak.

It is very gratifying to state that until now nearly all the German firms in Argentina continue doing business. Thus important positions have not been lost. Mr. von Thermann confirmed the fact already known to us that all the offices and German authorities which come into consideration indiscriminately have the firm intention to resume with all their might the relations with Latin America at once after the conclusion of peace.

Certain difficulties might arise in Argentina in the near future out of the fact that an ever increasing group of young people in the country sympathizes with the autocratic system. Naturally there is the possibility of this matter which originally concerns the internal policy only, also reacting on the Argentine foreign policy.

It is true that the trial against the pharmaceutical firms which also the Bayer Agency has been involved in, is not being carried on. Still, it has not come to a close yet. For this reason also Mr. Homann has not obtained a visa so far to leave the Republic.

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Mr. von Thermann is fully satisfied regarding the relations between the Embassy and our agencies.

Mr. von Thermann will take luncheon with us on Thursday, 16th January 1941 and carry on the discussion. The B.d.K.A. will draw up a programme for same in cooperation with Dr. Overhoff.

signed: Frank-Fahle

13th January 1941.

Re: Anilinas Alemanas S.A.

We refer to the exchange of telegrams regarding the firm, especially to our wire of 18th November No. 11 and your reply of 23rd November 1940 No. 19. In this connection we should like to advise you that your latest remarks have induced us to talk all the matters once more over with the competent authorities, especially with the Ministry of Economy and with the Management of the Foreign Organisation. All the partners concerned agreed upon the present status being maintained without any change during the war. Thus any further steps on your part in the matter are no longer necessary.

Note

handed over to Mr. v.Th. on 16th January
to be passed on by him personally.