

PLAZA, Jose

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MAR 17 1945

Dear Mr. Plaza:

I have your letter of February 27, and its enclosure, concerning a proposal to establish "colonization centers" for immigrants to Ecuador.

While the plan outlined in your letter promises to be a worthwhile project, the terms of reference of the War Refugee Board are such that it is not in a position to undertake active participation in a program of this type. It is possible that the plan will be of interest to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and you may wish to write to Miss Martha Biehle, the American Resident Representative of the Committee, whose address is 1344 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.

I am sorry that I cannot advise you as to investment firms to be approached in this connection. As to immigration organizations to be contacted, some of the agencies named in the enclosed list may be in a position to be of help in this matter.

In accordance with your request, the enclosure to your letter is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Jose M. Plaza,
6860 - 108th Street,
Forest Hills,
Long Island, New York.

EBT Enclosures.

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THE SECRETARY WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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KINDLY INFORM IF YOU RECEIVED MY LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 25
CONCERNING IMMIGRATION IN ECUADOR AND ENCLOSED MY CREDENTIALS
FROM MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF ECUADOR STOP HAVE RECEIVED NO
ANSWER

JOSE PLAZA

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The Secretary
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

February 27/45
6860-108th St
Forest Hills, Long Is.
N.Y.C.

Dear Sir,

In representation of the promoting-unit of the "Compañía Ecuatoriana de Colonización", sponsored by the Ministry of Economics of Ecuador, I am bringing to your notice a brief sketch of the nature and purpose of the above-mentioned organization with the request that you kindly furnish such information as you may deem pertinent to the subject in so far as the "War Refugee Board" may be concerned.

The "Compañía Ecuatoriana etc." is to be formed for the purpose of bringing to realization a coherent and technically planned project for the settlement of immigrants in Ecuador. The Government of Ecuador, profiting from past experience of the failure of un-planned colonization, is sponsoring the project.

The "Compañía" has been granted what may be termed an optional priority on all unsettled lands in Ecuador, which gives it the right to select the zones best suited to its purpose.

Within these zones, the "Compañía" is to establish "colonization centers": constituted by a central "comunal unit" and surrounding, properly surveyed, cleared and allotted, plots of adequate size for agricultural exploitation by the immigrants.

The "comunal unit" shall be provided with all basic facilities such as: communication, sanitation, schooling, recreation, power, experimental station, general stores, etc.

Upon the completion of the basic work pertinent to such a plan, the "Compañía" brings in the immigrants and settles them in the "colonization centers" by the sale of lots at a low price and with adequate facilities of payment.

The land is originally granted free to the "Compañía" but the Government acquires domain over the public utilities and establishments of the central "comunal unit".

The total project is subject to general governmental guidance policy, but the "Compañía" exercises technical and administrative supervision over each "center of colonization" until full payment of the lots.

The realization of the plan calls for large scale financial backing, and this backing is being sought in the U.S. The financial backers to retain mortgage of the total of each "colonization center" pending the full payment of their investment, on which, an agreed interest-rate must be paid by the "Compañía". The financial backers also to share fully the technical supervision over the planning, realization and administration of the project until full payment of the investment by the "Compañía".

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