

District, Federal Building,  
New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

66266

SECRET

Refer to No.

A8-5/B-7-R  
(16-cmh)

November 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM

From: District Intelligence Officer, EIGHTH Naval District.  
To : Director of Naval Intelligence.  
Subject: Mexico - Japanese Note Found in Matamoros.  
References: (a) 8ND card, same subject, 10-23-42.  
(b) 8ND card, same subject, 10-27-42.  
Enclosures: (A) Photostatic copy of subject note received from IO, Ft. Brown.  
(B) Copy of news story, "VALLEY SPY SCARE FADES AS MAN ADMITS PLANTING NOTE", from the Brownsville (Texas) Herald, dated October 30, 1942.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.
2. The originator has classified this matter SECRET, and in accordance with Article 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ , U. S. Navy Regulations, the same classification is given herewith.
3. In accordance with Article 76, U. S. Navy Regulations, the originator certifies that transmission of this letter by registered mail within the continental United States is considered necessary and is therefore authorized.
4. Enclosure (B) is forwarded for the reason that it apparently gives a reliable explanation of the circumstances surrounding subject note.

RECEIVED S-C FILES

Room 2165

NOV 5 1942

ROUTE 10-16

(In File No. (SU) A8-5/B-7-R

(Enc. No. 65582

(Copy No. 1 of 2

(Date 2-3-43)

4-3 2830

W. S. HOGG

FINISHED FILE

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 803073

2508E

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ENCLOSURE (A) of Brownsville Branch Ltr., JAPANESE WRITTEN MESSAGE.

Handwritten text in Devanagari script, including a large Swastika symbol in the center.

**SECRET**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Authority NND 803073

CONFIDENTIAL  
COPY

VALLEY SPY SCARE FADES AS  
MAN ADMITS PLANTING NOTE.

Six Had Been Jailed After Jap Note  
Found in Key Ring; All Now Cleared

Matamoros military authorities are holding Cesar Longoria Garcia, former traffic officer in that city, for complicity in a recent spy scare that saw six people jailed and had authorities of Washington and Mexico City pondering over an illegible message, thought to be written in Japanese characters.

The incident began several weeks ago when Longoria Garcia investigated an accident between the Gateway bridge and the city of Y. Matamoros.

One of the cars involved in the wreck was impounded by Garcia and the keys turned in at police headquarters.

Upon examination one of the keys proved to be hollow and a small slip of paper was discovered in the barrel.

The paper was covered with oriental ideographs and signed with a Nazi swastika.

Driver was Held.

The operator of the auto, Juan B. Garcia, Jr., of Matamoros, was held pending investigation of the note.

It was later discovered that the car was owned by Luciano Gonzales, of Reynosa. He was arrested and brought to Matamoros for alleged complicity in the espionage case.

The message was photostated and copies sent to Washington, Tampico, and Mexico City, where efforts of experts revealed it was a badly written, incoherent, group of Chinese characters.

Garcia Admits Plot

Garcia was called to the carpet by Lt. Gen. Juan N. Calis Campos, commander of the Matamoros garrison, where he admitted he had planted the message in an effort to gain favor in the eyes of his chief.

General Celis Campos said today that all persons arrested in the case, with the exception of the police officer, had been completely exonerated.

He is being held by military authorities who have not decided what charges will be brought against him.

ENCLOSURE (B)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**COPY**

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ENCLOSURE (8)

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OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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November 5, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander Wharton

Subject: Mexico - Japanese Note Found in Matamoros.

16-12836 GPO

Lt. Comdr. G. E. Boone, Op-20-GR, reviewed the subject memo and stated that in his opinion this was the work of a prank. Among other things he pointed out that there are a total of 67 different characters, some of which have the elements of Chinese or Japanese characters in a very elementary form. He also stated that it was believed impossible to compose a message in one of the more well-known languages without duplicating certain letters.

Comdr. Boone called in a Lt. Robert Sims (?) who is an expert in cuneiform writing. The latter also indicated that this writing seemed to be of no coherency or meaning.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that the attached writing is nothing more or less than the work of a prankster.

Respectfully,

*Don Cyril Gorham*  
Don Cyril Gorham

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With enclosures

Received

Op. 16

GPO

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Op. 16

GPO 16-15240

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