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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Weekly Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Partido Socialista Popular	DATE DISTR.	28 October 1953
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- The National Executive Committee of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) met on the evening of 25 September 1953. Among those in attendance were Cesar VILLAR, Ladislao GONZALEZ Carvajal, Anibal ESCALANTE, Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ, and Dr. Arnaldo ESCALONA Almeida.

POLITICAL SITUATION

- Dr. Arnaldo ESCALONA Almeida, the PSP contact with other political parties, reported that the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo) (PPC (O)) is completely disorganized because of the recent imprisonment of Emilio OCHOA, the departure from Cuba of Jose PARDO Llada, and the absence of other leaders. For these reasons ESCALONA has been unable to make much progress in his negotiations. However, he had been in contact with Nicolas CASTELLANOS concerning the PSP's desire to unite with other opposition parties. As a guide to the government's future policy, the government or the Electoral Commission will ask the opposition parties to express their views. Twenty days after this has been done, the government will indicate its political position and election plans. The PSP has not been invited by the government or the Electoral Commission to express its opinion, but Dr. Juan MARINELLO, through Ramon VASCONCELOS, is endeavoring to bring this about.
- The National Executive Committee plans to form a national commission to continue political contacts. ESCALONA Almeida and other leaders will be members, but the formation of this committee must be postponed until imprisoned leaders are freed. Joaquin URDOQUI was mentioned as being one of the most able members for this task, and it was hoped that he would be released, as stated to the Committee by his attorney, Dr. Jose Miguel PEREZ Lamy.

LABOR MATTERS

- Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ again emphasized that militant Communists in the various labor unions must begin their preparatory work with a view toward the elections which will take place in most unions in November, December, and January. The National Commission for Union Affairs will address a communication to all Party

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labor units instructing them to make the necessary contacts, organize the propaganda for the elections, and formulate the list of unitary candidates. The Party hopes to regain much of its lost prestige in the labor field as a result of the coming union elections.

IMPRISONMENTS

5. A letter from Dr. Jose Miguel PEREZ Lamy was read assuring the Committee that Joaquin ORDOQUI and Lazaro PENA would be released soon as a result of his efforts, especially in view of the fact that the accusations against them have been withdrawn because of Fidel CASTRO's admission of being solely responsible for the Oriente uprising and his denial of involvement with the Communists.

PARTY FINANCES

6. Manuel LUZARDO reported on the grave economic situation of the Party and stated that the National Executive Committee would have to take immediate remedial action. LUZARDO's economic plan, agreed upon and adopted by the Committee, consists of an appeal to Communist leaders who have been able to regain control of their unions to commit themselves to making monthly contributions as done previously. The collection of these amounts will be justified to the workers in future meetings. In addition, there will be a demand for the collection of Party dues, extraordinary and voluntary contributions from leaders, militant members, sympathizers, and fellow travellers; collections in various labor centers; organization of raffles of refrigerators, television sets, and an automobile in various labor centers throughout the Republic. In this way the Party hopes to obtain the funds so desperately needed.
7. LUZARDO's plan for a campaign to speed up payment of back subscriptions and other debts of the correspondents and agents of Hoy was accepted by the Committee. A revision of the finances of Hoy, La Ultima Hora, and Fundamentos will be made so that all may begin publication at the earliest possible date. The expected restoration of constitutional guarantees, coupled with the fact that the Cuban Government will consider a new interpretation of the Public Order Law in regard to the press, as a consequence of President BATISTA's agreement with the Cuban Press Bloc, are reasons for an accelerated reorganization of PSP publications. The National Executive Committee decided to address an appeal for support to all Party groups, especially to correspondents and agents of Hoy. Propaganda commissions of the various Party committees will be studied and a reorganization undertaken if deemed necessary.
8. All Communist Parties of the world will be asked to organize demonstrations before the various Cuban diplomatic installations throughout the world demanding that the liberty and interests of the Communists in Cuba be respected by the BATISTA Government. This move will also include flooding President BATISTA and the Cuban diplomatic missions and representatives with telegrams protesting government repression of Cuban Communists.

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