

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 25 August 1948

SUBJECT Proposed Latin American Petroleum Workers' Congress in Mexico
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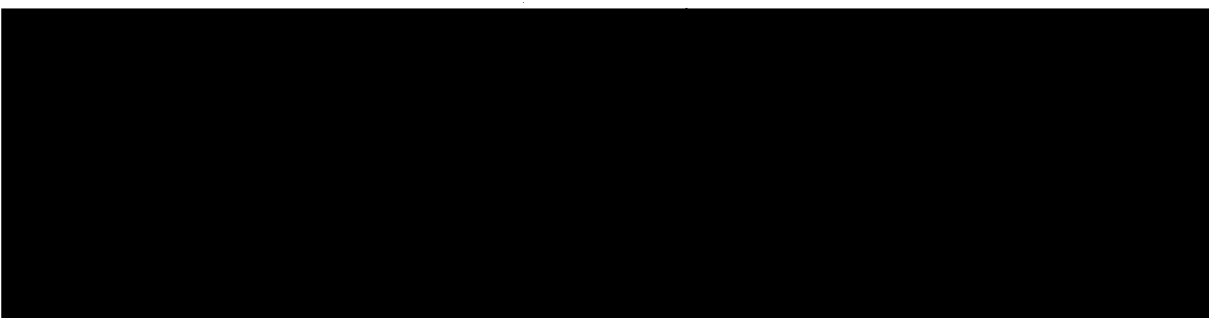
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DATE OF INFO

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL) headquarters in Mexico City reportedly is organizing a Latin American Petroleum Workers' Congress to convene in Tampico, Mexico, the first week in September. The Congress, originally scheduled to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, in December 1947, was planned by Francisco Archandieta Ortega, the Mexican President of the Organizing Committee of the Latin American Petroleum Workers' Congress.
2. Pedro Saad, number one Communist labor leader in Ecuador, has received an invitation to attend this Congress in his official capacity as Vice President of the CTAL. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, the President of the CTAL, reportedly will be unable to attend.
3. Although nothing definite has been decided in Ecuador regarding the delegation to the proposed Congress, tentative plans have been made for Nicolas Kingman, a Socialist, to represent the local Shell Oil Company and for Calo Ronquillo, a Communist, to represent the Anglo-Ecuadoran Petroleum Company of Ecuador. Saad will be an official of the Congress rather than a delegate.
4. The local Communists regard this Congress with considerable interest. They have indicated that Communist penetration and control of the petroleum workers in Latin America is one of their most important objectives. From sources abroad the Ecuadoran Communist leaders have heard that the Congress will be extremely important because of the efforts of Socialist and "reactionary" groups in the various affiliated syndicates to gain control of the gathering. The Communists feel that the latter group may break away from the CTAL if given a chance. Local Communists have indicated that, despite the strength of the "reactionaries", the Communists presently maintain control over the greatest number of syndicates which will be represented at the Congress in Mexico. This attitude is sharply reflected in Ecuador where the Socialists control the workers' syndicate of the Shell Oil Company, and the Communists control the larger syndicate of the Anglo-Ecuadoran Petroleum Company.
5. Saad is quoted as having said that the principal objective of the Congress will be to overcome the attitude of the "reactionaries" and to work toward a strong unification of petroleum workers' syndicates in Latin America.

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