INFORMATION REPORT

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Internal Difficulties of the PSP

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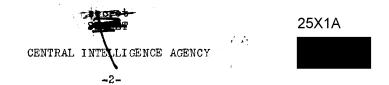
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- l. During recent months, there have been disagreements between the leaders and the militants of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP-Cuban Communist Party) which reportedly will result in some members leaving the PSP and the Communist-controlled labor movement in order to join the legal Confederacion de Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC). One of the basic difficulties of the party today is the difference of opinion between the young militants and the older leaders. The young militants are in favor of resorting to violence and struggle. This however is contrary to the opinion of the older leaders who definitely oppose a policy of violence. Therefore, the internal political 25X1X situation of the PSP at the present time is unpredictable.
- In the past, it has been the policy of the PSP to attempt to associate itself with the winner of any national election in Cuba, thereby obtaining numerous advantages for the workers who were associated with the CTC. The PSP, which is isolated from association with other political parties at the present time, lacks political pacts with the Cuban Revolutionary Party and the Republican Party, which were the successful parties in the recent elections. It will be impossible, according to source, for the PSP to establish alliances in the future with these parties, and the Party faces four more years of the same situation.
- 3. Because the PSP in the past has been a party of the masses and the workers, it has been able to control their activities primarily through the CTC and the Party. Promises which the PSP made to the political parties with which it has been allied have been fulfilled primarily because the PSP, in control of the CTC, dictated the activities of the workers. But now, reportedly, the workers are no longer deceived into believing that the PSP is actually the workers' party; this condition has resulted in numerous disagreements and quarrels between the directors of the PSP and the militants. Blas Poca, Secretary General of the PSP, has accused some of the leaders and members of being traitors and defeatists because many PSP militants have been avouching admission of defeat in the labor union movement and have expressed the desire of entering the CTC, which is controlled by Angel Cofino. Allegedly, their purpose is to carry out, from within the framework of the CTC, a fractional labor movement with a view to the coming Sixth National Workers' Congress of Cuba which will be held sometime between April and August 1949.

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- 4. The plans of the directors of the PSP for the period following 1 June 1948 were based upon the election of the Liberal and Democratic candidate, Dr. Ricardo Nunez-Portuondo, as President of Cuba. The directors of the PSP felt that if Nunez-Portuondo had been successful in the recent Cuban elections, the man of the hour would have been ex-President Fulgencio Batista, a great friend of theirs, and the party status would have been improved. Source stated that for this reason the PSP, before the June elections, tried to weaken the position of Carlos Prio Socarras by working on behalf of Eduardo Chibas and the Orthodox Party while secretly they were allied with the forces of Nunez-Portuondo. Prior to the June elections, Ramon Nicolau, PSP leader, made several trips to the United States to interview Fulgencio Batista. The purpose of these pre-election contacts was to fix the conditions of an alliance of the PSP with the Liberal and Democratic forces despite the fact that these parties are the most reactionary in Cuba.
- 5. PSP members hope to establish political union with Fulgencio Batista upon the latter's return to Cuba to assume his seat in the Cuban Senate. Reportedly, Batista has promised the leaders of the FSP to repair the present situation by means of his triumph as president in the elections which will be held in Cuba in 1952. If the election of Batista should occur in 1952, PSP members and Batista followers believe the Communists should be able to regain the direction of the workers' movement, utilizing fear and official favors in order to hasten the arrival of political support.

 The leaders of the PSP, 25X1X for these reasons, even though they are problematical, tell militants at the various meetings that Batista is going to play a very lively role in the Cuban Senate.
- 6. The PSP believes in Batista's promise to create a united opposition movement and to organize a great party in which the Communists would have a predominate role in spite of numerical deficiencies. The PSP feels that it would be useful to Batista because of its combativeness and its organs of propaganda.
- 25X1A Comment. The leaders of the PSP seem to give 25X1X little consideration to the effects of international affairs on this program nor do they give any consideration to the possible measures which President Carlos Prio Socarras will take against them. By following the course outlined above, it is believed that the FSP will liquidate itself.)