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Portuguese Communist Party Penetration of

SUBJECT 25X1A6a

the National Syndicates in the Algarve

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



- 1. In the course of investigations, begun on 20 May 1948, into the subversive activities of the Portuguese Communist Party in the Algarve, it was learned that the PCP extended into all the most important industrial centers, and was directed and controlled by a Provincial Committee. The Provincial Committee was directed and controlled by functionaries of the Party, one of whom was a member of the Central Committee.
- 2_{\circ} At the time of the arrest of the most important members of the local Party organizations at Faro, Olhao, Vila Roal de Santo Antonio, Portinao, Silves, and Lagos, where activity was especially concentrated among the laboring classes in the fish-canning and cork industries, by the formation of Factory Cells in factories and Industry Cormittees for the direction of tasks distributed to members of those Cells, Syndical Cells were also discovered which carried on their operations within the respective syndicates and sections, and their members were arrested.
- 3. Despite the fact that some members of the Syndical Cells were in contact with the local organization and in some cases were even the members responsible for the local or regional level, it is certain that all direction for the fulfilment of Party tasks in the syndical field came from the member responsible for syndical work, and that syndical work was a separate level in the make-up of Party organization, even though the responsible member belonged to the Provincial Committee where the manner of executing the commands of the Party were discussed and approved.
- Jose Rodrigues VITORIANO, president of the board of the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Cork Workers, with its seat at Silves, confessed to being responsible for all syndical work of the PCP in the Algarve. The direction of that work was planned in the Provincial Committee on which he served. He held several meetings of members of the boards of syndicates, which took place in the office of the Portimao Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers, at which a functionary of the Party also appeared, as well as Ilidio RODRIGUES, president of the board of that section, Pedro FAUSTINO jr., president of the board of the Vila Real section of the same syndicate, and Joao de Sousa CACTOJA, president of the board of the Olhao branch of the Mational Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers.

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- 5. At Olhao, in the office of this same syndicate, VITORIANO held a meeting which was attended by those mentioned above and also by Inacio FLOR, who at the time was the secretary of the Lagos Section of the same syndicate.
- 6. At these meetings plans were laid down for the activity which was to be carried on in the syndicates of each of those present, in support of claims and pretensions of the workmen which would be presented by committees which the Party organization, by means of its Factory Cells, undertook to form.
- 7. At the meeting at Olhao, held a short time before the syndical elections of 1943, it was decided that all should try, within the scope of the decision of the Undersecretary of Corporations, to be re-elected so that the Party might not lose the posts it had acquired.
- 8. In compliance with these Party orders each one tried to be elected, together with the other members of the board who were at the same time members of the Party or with individuals considered to be sympathetic.
- 9. At Silves, in the elections of the Directive Bodies of the National Syndicate of Corkworkers, two lists were presented, one by the board, the other by the opposition. The Party, however, took care not to lose the post of president of the board. In the list presented by the outgoing board of which VITORIANO was president a certain Joac da Conceicao PALMINNA, a member of the PCP responsible for agitation and propaganda in the Silves local organization, was proposed for the office of president, whereas in the list presented by the opposition VITORIANO was chosen for the same office. Whichever list was elected the Party was certain of having at least the presidency of the board, PALMINHA confessed this after his arrest.
- 10. Some members of the outgoin; Directive Bodies were named in each of the two lists presented, from which it may be judged that they were drawn up by agreement and so that they would retain their positions no matter which list was elected. Actually, the opposition list was elected.
- In the Lagos Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers, Inacio FLOR, the secretary of the board and a confessed member of the Local Committee of the PCP, after observing that the president of that board was not amenable, planned to replace him. He therefore drew up a list in which his name replaced the president and asked the board to submit it to the general assembly for approval. The president, Jose da Conceicao RODRIGUES, drew up another list, on which FLOR's name did not appear. The treasurer of the board, Manuel REGATAO, a member of the PCP, was called upon to choose which list the board would submit to the assembly, and he sided with FLOR. Thus the list drawn up by the PCP member was presented to the assembly. RODRIGUES then obtained sufficient signatures, in keeping with the decision of the Undersecretary of Corporations, to present an opposition list to the assembly, but the one presented by the board was accepted.
- 12. At Portimao there was not even a struggle. The local organization of the PCP made up a list with the names of the retiring members of the directive bodies and within each factory collected the necessary signatures to present it to the assembly, which elected it. It has now been determined that the list elected in 1945 had been drawn up by Domingos dos SANTOS, the secretary of the general assembly, who has been a member of the PCP for a relatively long time and has served on the local committee. An analysis of the elections shows that in the general assembly the president, Joaquim Inacio RODRIGUES, is a member of a Factory Cell and has held at least one meeting of the PCP in his residence. On the board of directors the president, Ilicio RODRIGUES, is the member responsible for the Syndical Cell. The secretary Virgilio Nunes CUCO, is a member of that Cell. The treasurer, Joao Filipe IAROUS is also a member of the same Cell.

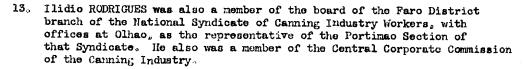
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- 14. After the elections at Portimao in the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Office Workers, a petition with fifteen signatures was presented, claiming irregularities. The petition was circulated by Antonio Pereira FERMANDES the only one of the signers who was present at the general assembly who is a member of the Local Committee of the PCP, and who later confessed that in so doing he was merely following instructions received from the local organization.
- 15. At Olhao too, there was no struggle. Just as at Portimao, it was the local organization which drew up the list and got the necessary signatures, thus bringing about the reelection of the president of the board, Joao de Sousa CACHOJA, who had been elected to that post last year to replace Germinal SEQUEIRA, also electing Ilidio RODRIGUES as a member of the board. With the arrest of Ilidio RODRIGUES in July, his place on the Central Corporate Committee was filled by CACHOJA, who was arrested only on 16 September. The latter confessed to being a member of the PCP and admitted having taken part in all meetings held by the syndical organization of the Party. The president of the Vila Real Section of the syndicate, Pedro FAUSTINO jr., was also a member of the Olhao board, headed by CACHOJA; FAUSTINO is also a member of the PCP.
- 16. At Vila Real de Santo Antonio, in the elections of the directive bodies in that Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers, the board presented a list in which each of the current members was proposed for reelection. This, according to later confessions, was done upon instruction from the PCP. In 1945 a board had been elected after having been proposed by members of the local organization of the PCP. During the course of its tenure one substitution had been necessary, and Sebastiao Filipe BELIAO had been temporarily appointed treasurer. He has admitted being a member of the Regional Committee of the PCP and the local representative of the Syndical Cell. BELIAO received his orders from Pedro FAUSTINO jr., the president of the board, who in turn received his at the meetings conducted by VITORIANO, with other syndical representatives. The syndical cell at Vila Real was composed of FAUSTINO, BELIAO, and Jose Custodio RUFINO, all members of the board.
- 17. The officers of the general assembly were elected on a list chosen by the local organization of the PCP.
- 18. There was also a Syndical Cell in the board of the Vila Real Section of the Faro branch of the National Syndicate of Office Workers. The Cell, which was in close contact with BELIAO, was composed of Ilidio Caraca RODRIGUES, the secretary, and Cristiano Augusto XAVIER, the treasurer. RODRIGUES, in addition to his syndical activities within the PCP, was also a member of a Class Committee of the same Party, set up among the class of office-workers and bill-collectors there. XAVIER, in addition to the syndical activities was the one responsible for this Class Committee and a member of the local committee of the PCP.
- 19. In the general assembly the two secretaries, Francisco Alves do Carmo PESSATHA and Antonio DUARTE, were members of a cell of the PCP, in contact with the Local Committee.
- 20. At Faro the representative of the Lisbon District branch of the National Syndicate of Milling Industry Workers was Joaquim Jeronimo GONCALVES, employed in the mill of the Algarve Industrial Company, who after arrest confessed to being a member of the Local Committee of the PCP there.

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21. To sum up, the following members of syndicates in the Algarve have been arrested and their responsibilities proven:

Jose Rodrigues VITORIANO, president of the board of the Faro District branch of the Mational Syndicate of Cork Workers, with offices at Silves.

Joan de Sousa CACHOJA, president of the board of the Paro District branch of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers with offices at Olhao.

Ilidio RODRIGUES, president of the board of the Portimao Section of the Hational Syndicate of Cunning Industry Workers.

Pedro PAUSTINO jr., president of the board of the Vila Real Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers.

Inacio FLOR, president of the board of the Lagos Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Norkers.

Joan Filipe LAROUGE, treasurer of the board of the Portiman Section of the Mational Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers.

Jose Custodio RUFINO, secretary of the board of the Vila Real Section of the National Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers.

Ilidio Caraca RODRIGUES, secretary of the board of the Vila Real Section of the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Office Workers.

Sebastiao Filipe BELIAO,, treasurer of the board of the Vila Real Section of the Mational Syndicate of Canning Industry Workers.

Christiano Augusto XAVIMR, treasurer of the board of the Vila Real Section of the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Office Workers.

Joaquim Jeronimo GOTC/ LVES, Fare representative of the Lisbon District branch of the National Syndicate of Milling Industry Workers.

Jose da Conceicao P/LMTPML, proposed, but not elected, as president of the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Cork Norkers, with offices at Silves.

On conditional liberty:

Antonio DUARTE, secretary of the general assembly of the Vila Real Section of the Faro District branch of the Nutional Syndicate of Office workers.

Hembers of syndicates, also of the PCP, not yet arrested:

Francisco Alves do Carmo PESSANIM, secretary of the general assembly of the Faro District branch of the National Syndicate of Office Norkers. Domingos dos SANTOS, secretary of the general assembly of the National Syndicate of Office Norkers.

Virgilio Munes CUCO, secretary of the board of the Mational Syndicate of Office Workers.

Manuel REGATAO, treasurer of the board of the Lagos Section of The National Syndicate of Office Workers.

22. As regards the other national syndicates in the Algarve no connection with the PCP has as yet been found, but investigations are continuing. Considering the security measures which the Party organization takes, these investigations must necessarily be slow, as indeed the previous ones were, since only now has it been possible to obtain concrete proof of the membership of those cited above in the PCP.

