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INFORMATION

COUNTRY Costa Rica

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SUBJECT Status of the Vanguardia Popular  
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The remnants of the Vanguardia Popular, although numerous when considered in conjunction with their controlled labor organization, the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Costa Rica (CTCR), have had small success in attaining any large-scale underground organization. This, of course, has been largely the result of the fact that the most talented of their leaders have been imprisoned from more or less the end of the revolution until 15 September 1948. Since that time, too, their organizational activities have been largely confined to small nocturnal reunions of the leaders in private homes while the rank and file have gone undisciplined and uninstructed. This is partially substantiated by the large number of one-time Communists and Communist-controlled workers who have been arrested for fighting and assault during past weeks. In the opinion of one observer the immediate future will see a resurgence of Communist organizational activity, tightly controlled, under the direction of Arnolando Herreto Segura, who will serve as Secretary General of the party in Costa Rica.
2. Many indications have been received that cooperation between the Communists and partisans of the ex-Calderon-Picado governments is a thing of the past:
  - a) The 14th mimeographed issue of Trabajo (25 October 1948), the former CTCR journal and now the voice of the Vanguardia Popular, indicated approval of Jose Figueres and cessation of strong oppositionist activities as long as he directed governmental policy.
  - b) On 5 October 1948 source saw a small mimeographed bulletin purported to have been composed by Manuel Mora, exiled former head of the Vanguardia Popular, which he quoted as saying, "The militants of the Vanguardia Popular will withhold themselves from exiles' revolutionary movements, considering that the people of Costa Rica need this lesson, and the Vanguardia has lost nothing and hence has nothing to gain (from such a movement)."
  - c) The same idea was expressed by Luis Carballo Corrales on 26 October. He said that the Communists had nothing to gain by any revolution which, to be successful, would have to be heavily supported from outside Costa Rica. In addition,

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Next Review Date: 2008

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he claimed that they approve of Figueroa, disliked Alberto Larten, Minister of Economy, and would withhold themselves from the political opposition until Otilio Ulate, President-elect, took over the government. With respect to that time, he stated that Arnaldo Ferrero had had a very successful conversation with Ulate recently, but he declined to give any details.

3. Carballo added that despite the designation of Ferrero as Secretary General, the general direction of the Party would still lie with Manuel Mora, who would, for the present at least, remain in Mexico. He said that a Party functionary would be going to Mexico shortly to arrange the details of communication.

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