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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]  
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COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 18 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Communists Eliminated from Electoral Registry

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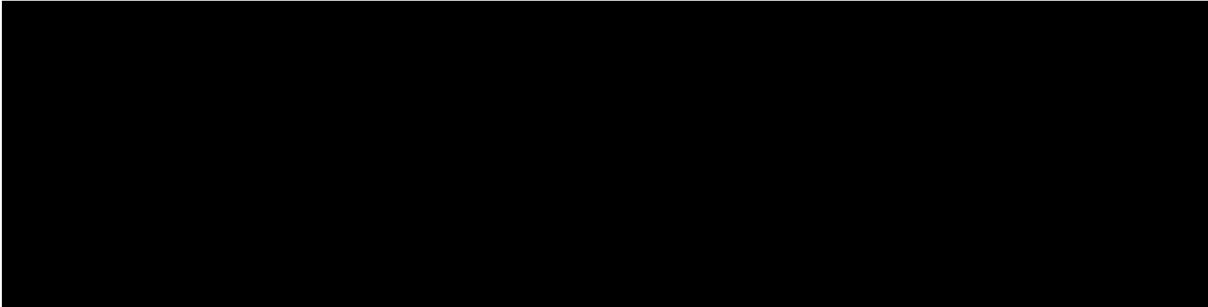
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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[REDACTED] the following background information of the events leading up to the publication in the Santiago press of names of Communists to be eliminated from the electoral registry.

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1. About the middle of December, Gonzalez Videla called the officials of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, as well as various members of the Electoral Tribunal, to La Moneda. The President proposed that publication of the list of persons barred from the electoral registry should be delayed until February. This delay in notification that they had been eliminated would mean that the Communists would not have time nor opportunity to appeal the question before the courts. The President displayed copies of the Communist circular which outlined the plans of the Communists to prevent their being barred. **Comment.** This circular contained an explanation of the Government's application of the Ley de Defensa in eliminating Communist Party members from the electoral registers. There were also instructions to the various regional and local committees of the Communist Party on the methods of filing appeals as soon as the names were published. Methods were suggested on concealing electoral registration data by those Party members not known by the Government.) The President suggested that a delay in publishing the lists would be the best way to circumvent the Communists.

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2. The officials listened to Gonzalez Videla and left La Moneda without clearly expressing their opinions, but they gave the President the impression that they would reject his proposal. Unofficially, the members of the court communicated with the Director of the Electoral Register and advised that they would be no party to retarding the publication of the lists. They added that they were disposed to hear all appeals and would render decisions within the legal periods. In private comments these court officials stated that they "did not desire to aid the establishment of a dictatorship through the malicious application of a law". **Comment.** This failure of Gonzalez Videla has been a great shock to the right wing political camp, where it was believed that the President could command respect in any situation.) **Comment.** The first list containing names of Communists to be eliminated from the electoral registers appeared in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 December 1948. Other lists have appeared since.

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