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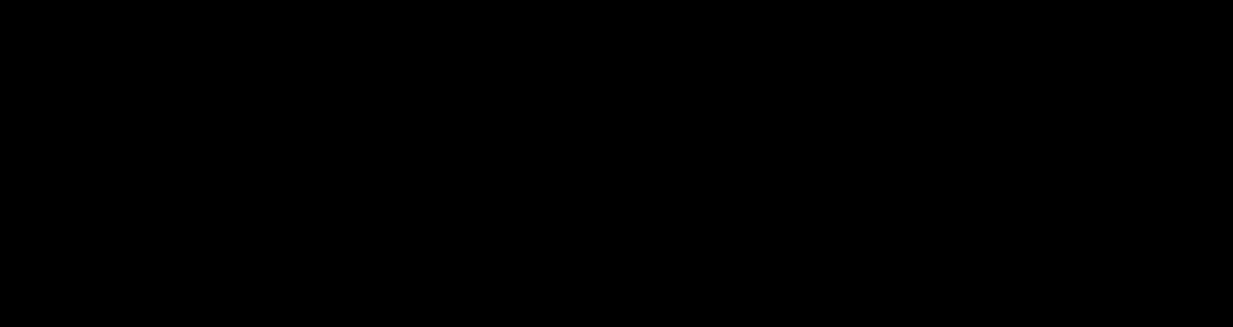
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1. The conflicts existing within the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC) were clearly visible during the VII Plenum of the CTC which was held in Bogota from 23 January to 2 February 1949. Most Colombian labor leaders and individuals connected with the Colombian labor field are of the opinion that the CTC is going through one of the worst periods in its history as a result of the uncooperativeness and incompetence of its present leaders. The atmosphere of cordiality with which the Plenum opened changed to one of mutual recriminations as the sessions progressed.
2. The first sessions were principally occupied with criticisms of various members of the Executive Committee. Parmenio Zapata, Vice President of the CTC and President of the National Federation of Road Workers, was severely criticized for participating in leftist-Liberal demonstrations on 16 January 1949. This criticism was instigated by Pedro J. Abella, Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Carlos Arturo Aguirre, Victor J. Merchan, and Milciades Osorio, members of the Communist Party of Colombia (PCO). The criticism was ostensibly based on the opinion that Zapata's speech implied that he was representing the CTC, but was actually based on their belief that he was in close contact with Augusto Duran Ospino and the Communist Workers Party (PCO).
3. The Liberal group, led by Victor Julio Silva, CTC President, then criticized Abella for neglecting his duties as CTC Secretary General and spending time traveling through the country agitating for Communism. The leaders of the PCO had earlier criticized Silva for not allowing Abella to make a similar trip just before the Plenum. Another indication of the conflict between Silva and Abella is the fact that Abella had not received his monthly salary of 150 pesos for three months.
4. Carlos Rozenko Troya, CTC Treasurer, was criticized for mishandling the finances, which resulted in the inability of the CTC to comply with certain obligations. Nicolas Guzman, CTC Secretary of Press and Culture, was also censured for the failure of CTC, the organization's magazine. The sum of 225 pesos was still owed to the Editorial Minerva Ltda. for printing the August 1948 issue of CTC.
5. Rozenko Troya introduced a resolution against Communist interference in the direction of the CTC, but it was defeated by the combined efforts of the PCO

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



members and Jesus Villagas Palacio, an important FCC member. This, together with the intense opposition to Communist domination manifested by other delegates, caused the Communists to force through the election of a new Executive Committee. The election had originally been scheduled for the forthcoming National Labor Congress which will take place on 12 October 1949. The FCC obtained controlling positions on the Committee, which is composed of the following:

- Secretary of Organization : Victor Julio Silva, Liberal, previously a member of the Committee.
- Secretary of Foreign Affairs : Jaime Rubio, FCC member and President of the National Federation of Road Workers and previously Vice President of the Committee.
- Secretary of Finances : Pedro J. Abella, FCC member and previously Secretary General of the Committee.
- Secretary for Culture and Press : Parmenio Zapata, leftist Liberal, President of the National Federation of Road Workers and previously Vice President of the Committee.
- Secretary for Justice and Control : Victor M. Medina, Liberal, member of Bavaria Bakery Union in Bogota.
- Secretary for Rural Affairs : Hector Jaimes, FCC member, member of the Federation of Workers of Valle, and representative of the Bakers Union.

6. The CTC also reiterated its opposition to the Union de Trabajadores de Colombia (UTC) and urged all its affiliates to support leftist-Liberal programs. It admitted that it was legally forbidden to engage in political activities, but urged its members to do so as individuals.

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