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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Chile

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1. The Communist Party in Valparaiso has reportedly lost all importance. It has no offices, not even in the name of the Frente Nacional Democratico (FND), and it publishes no newspapers or even mimeographed sheets. El Pueblo, which is the only publicity organ now being used by the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), is not on sale, and no propaganda work has been reported. The mural type of propaganda, in which slogans are inscribed on walls, does not exist, although this is usually one of the principal tasks assigned to cells. No public meetings are held. The number one Communist in the area, Guillermo Saez, has not returned from the Pisagua prison, and Primitivo Palma, the number two man, is devoting his time to rebuilding his plumbing business.
2. The only work being carried on at present is the organization of women's groups. A directive establishing this new objective was issued by PCCh headquarters. In the past only a few women have been interested in these organizations, and plans are being made to form groups to attract new sympathizers.
3. The greatest percentage of Communists is found among the port workers. There are 1800 laborers at the docks, and 1500 of these were eliminated from the electoral lists when Communists were barred from voting. According to law, since these individuals were working in a vital area, those eliminated from the electoral register could not continue working. The Director of the Department of the Port was obliged to send a protest to the government, stating that if 1500 laborers were eliminated, the port would be left with only 300 operators, which would paralyze activity at the docks. The government had to authorize the Director to continue to hire the same laborers.
4. In Vina del Mar, the PCCh is much stronger, and the cells are well-organized. There are no offices, but meetings are held in the streets or in the plazas. El Pueblo is passed from hand to hand, to persons with known Communist sympathies. The Communists in Vina del Mar are also organizing women's groups and are active in FND work.

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