

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 16 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Communist Party Support of Guayaquil Municipal Workers Strike

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25X1A2g

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Communist Party in Guayaquil has given full support to the strike of the Guayaquil city employees. Party members during the week of 9-16 February were asked to make special contributions to a strike fund. Certain members were obligated to paint and post signs in the workers' district urging all workers to support the strike. Despite the Communists' efforts, it was expected that the strike would be terminated by 17 February 1949, since the strikers have no accumulated funds, and the Communist Party at this time has no allowance to aid the work stoppage.
2. Although Communist members, headed by Manuel Arenas, a city councilman, and Vicente Iturralde, had been agitating among the municipal workers since the middle of January 1949, it was not decided definitely by Party leaders until 11 February 1949 that the strike should be carried out. Certain leaders had not favored the strike since President Galo Plaza Lasso had promised unofficially to allow the Communist Party freedom as long as it refrains from organizing crippling strikes.
3. Ambitious Communist leaders had hoped to oust Rafael Guerrero, the present mayor, by means of a prolonged strike, and then place Alberto Ordenanza, a Communist councilman, in his position. The Communists consider Guerrero the only strong candidate in the next city elections and they had hoped to eliminate him as a contender by means of the strike.

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CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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