

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Brazil

SUBJECT PCB Activities Since Its Illegality

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1. When the registration of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB) was cancelled on 7 May 1947, its members and directors were so intimidated by the new law and by repressive police action that they acted with the utmost caution. However, during the last three months of 1948, in obedience to instructions issued by Luiz Carlos Prestes in a manifesto, Communist agitators became openly active. Party members abandoned their passive attitude in favor of aggressive and boldly threatening measures. This change in policy, which reached its climax in December 1948, affected all the publications and extended to all clandestine PCB activities.
2. With the closing of the PCB, the morale of its members sank sharply, and sixty per cent of the members and sympathizers deserted. Before its registration was cancelled, the Party numbered 60,000 members and 300,000 sympathizers. The Communists decided to carry on their activities through "Improvement Committees" and "Progressive Committees" which took their names from the section or suburb in which they were organized. The number of these committees rose to about 350. Since these organizations were of a civic nature, they were not affected by the Electoral Court's decision, which was aimed at destroying the cells. PCB directors decided to eliminate cells in all the large organizations and replace them by Commissions which would urge the workers to demand raises and create an atmosphere of unrest.
3. An intensive program to form fronts under the guise of charitable, athletic, recreational, and feminine organizations was followed. These groups have served as substitutes for the cells. Within a year the number of these organizations, which were legally registered as civil societies, had reached 300 throughout Brazil. The average number of members in each society is fifty persons, of whom some are non-Communists who were attracted by the ostensible purposes of the organizations.
4. The directors of the PCB opened an office at Rua 13 de Maio, the Edificio Darke, in order to have a place to contact loyal members. The office serves as headquarters for the Movement for Aid to Political Prisoners,* which is directed by Abel Chermont. This office and the office of the Fracao Parlamentar of the PCB at Avenida Rio Branco 257* served as replacements for the following PCB groups which functioned in Rio de Janeiro prior to May 1947:

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- a. The National Committee, together with the National Secretariat, the Deliberative Council, and auxiliary groups.
 - b. The Metropolitan Committee.
 - c. Fifteen "fundamental" cells, directly under the National Committee.
 - d. Thirty-three district committees.
 - e. Two hundred thirty-seven shop cells.
 - f. Two hundred nine neighborhood cells.
5. The PCB has a group of fifty lawyers which it uses to assist any member who is in difficulty with the courts of the political police. The attorneys work closely with the Movement to Aid Political Prisoners.
 6. Unable to elect representatives under its own name, the PCB has infiltrated all other political parties with the exception of the Partido de Representacao Popular (Integralist Party). By doing this, it still has about fifty Party members in various state or municipal governments. Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, the Federal District, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Bahia are the states in which the greatest Communist influence exists.
 7. The Youth Resistance Movement was formed by the Communists to replace the Juventude Comunista which was outlawed with the Party. Justino Prestes, a cousin of Luiz Carlos Prestes, and a physician and agitator, directs this organization.*** Most of the students participating in the Youth Resistance Movement belong to other student organizations, of which the Uniao Nacional dos Estudantes (UNE) is outstanding.
 8. The PCB leadership is now located in the State of Sao Paulo and the following persons comprise the National Committee: Luiz Carlos Prestes, Joao Amazonas, Jose Maria Crispim, Mauricio Grabois, and Pedro Carvalho Braga. There is a State Committee composed of five persons in each state which directs municipal and neighborhood committees. The latter, in turn, supervise the neighborhood and shop commissions. Directors of the municipal committees live on a Party salary and devote their entire time to PCB interests.
 9. The Party was not very active in seeking the support of the rural population until after its illegality, and then it encountered many difficulties. The Ligas Camponesas (Farm Leagues) did not realize much money for the Party, and a new line of propaganda urging rural workers to go to the cities and earn more money was started. This line was quite successful, and farmers flocked to the overcrowded industrial areas. This movement facilitated Party recruitment, but it also increased the scarcity of agricultural workers, thus damaging the country's economy. The PCB had made use of a great deal of nationalist propaganda, such as the Campaign for Defense of Petroleum, in its attempt to secure the support of the masses.
 10. The PCB has several important members abroad at the present time. These include Armenio Guedes and Roberto Morena in the Western Hemisphere, and Jorge Amado, Pedro Carvalho Braga, Candido Portinari, Oscar Niemeyer, Eno Duarte, Anibal Machado, Arcelina Mochel, Maria Portugal Millard,**** and Caio F. Monteiro in Europe.
 11. The principal support of the Party has been the press through which standard doctrines and current propaganda have been spread. The Communist press in Brazil comprises 25 newspapers, 7 magazines, and 100 pamphlets. The pamphlets receive a very limited circulation controlled by the editors themselves. A Classe Operaria, a weekly, is the official and most important publication and has a nation-wide circulation. All of the PCB publications are registered

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in the name of particular individuals rather than the Party; for example, A Classe is registered in the name of Mauricio Grabois. The Communist press is not self-sufficient because of a lack of facilities and is dependent upon help from the Party. The Movimento de Ajuda a Imprensa Popular (MAIP-- Movement to Aid the Popular Press) has been able to obtain only about 20 per cent of the money necessary for press expenses and the Party has had to supply the rest. At the time that it was declared illegal, the PCB had 30,000,000 cruzeiros on hand.

12. In addition to its publications the PCB has two publishing houses which are ostensibly commercial firms, but which deal almost exclusively in Marxist literature.**** Interpress News Agency is also still owned by the Party because it had not been registered in the name of the PCB.
13. After the police broke up the Communist-inspired peace conference on 9 April 1949, a report was received to the effect that both the police and the PCB were planning to take more violent action. The PCB is believed to be planning sabotage and other violence to be followed by a more aggressive propaganda line. The police are expected to adopt more repressive measures and to raid the Universidade do Povo before long.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. *The Movement for Aid to Political Prisoners is also known as the Commission of Solidarity with Political Prisoners.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. **The Fraccao Parlamentar is under the direction of Diogenes de Arruda Camara, a Communist Federal Deputy who was elected on the Partido Social Progressista ticket.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. ***Justino Prestes is identical with Antonio Prestes Meneses, former director of the Communist Associacao Brasileira de Assistencia Social.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. ****Maria Portugal Millard is identical with Maria Portugal Millard, a member of the Advisory Council of the Centro Nacional de Estudos e Defesa do Petroleo.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. *****These are Editorial Vitoria and Livraria Itaiatia.

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