

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 26 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Communist Meetings Raided by Chilean Police

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25X1A2g

PLACE ACQUIRED

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. Communist meetings which the Chilean police raided on 15 April 1949 were reportedly being held in preparation for the rumored Fifth National Congress of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh). No information is yet available indicating whether the arrests made in these raids will cause a postponement or will otherwise affect the proposed secret Congress.
2. On the morning of 15 April, personnel of the Confidential or Political Control Division of Chilean Investigaciones raided a house located at Calle Robles 0167 in Santiago. They believed that Octavio O'Kingston Gonzales, who is wanted for his alleged participation in the revolutionary plot of October 1948, was hidden there.
3. No trace of O'Kingston Gonzales was found, but police subsequently arrested Juan Bautista Arenas Gamboa, the lessee of the house, when they found a large quantity of Communist literature and propaganda on the premises. Arenas Gamboa stated that he was the treasurer of the Communist organization of the Sixth Commune of Santiago, and he claimed that his instructions came from Miguel Concha Quezada, former Minister of Agriculture, who allegedly visited him frequently. Arenas Gamboa was held by the police. He is a tailor, 33 years of age, married, and a native of Santiago.
4. At 11 o'clock on the same morning, the residence of Jacinto Carrasco at Calle Libertad 1160 was also raided and a clandestine Communist meeting was discovered. The following individuals were arrested:

Gaspar Vasquez Cifuentes, a Chilean citizen, 53 years of age, single, a native of San Javier, residing in the locality of Paine. Vasquez Cifuentes admitted that about two weeks previously he had contacted Alfredo Arce Vega and the others arrested with him to tell them when the meeting would take place and that its purpose was to prepare a report for presentation at the Fifth National Congress of the PCCh. Vasquez Cifuentes stated that the Party leaders intended to hold such a congress secretly, and that they wished to have available for study information concerning the effective strength on which the Party could count for any demonstrations to be held on 1 May. Vasquez Cifuentes added that Luis Perez Retamales was invited to attend this meeting so that he would subsequently be able to tell Communist farm laborers what decisions were reached. Vasquez Cifuentes stated that he had presided over the meeting because he was the senior Communist present.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Alfredo Arce Vega, a 43 year old Chilean citizen, married, a native of Combarbala, who lives at Calle Santa Maria 303, Buin. Arce Vega, an unskilled day laborer, is a militant Communist and has been a member of the Buin Committee of the Communist Party on several occasions.

Prosperina del Carmen Catalan Catalan de Carrasco, Chilean, 39 years of age and allegedly married to Jacinto Carrasco. She claimed to have no prior knowledge that the meeting was to be of a political nature, and said that her husband had merely stated that he was having some friends to lunch.

Jacinto Carrasco, husband of Prosperina del Carmen Catalan Catalan de Carrasco, is a former San Bernardo municipal worker who was discharged for his Communist affiliations.

Manuel Carcamo Araya, a native-born Chilean, 34 years of age, and unmarried. He is a cobbler and lives at Calle Balmaceda 721, Buin.

Alamiro Cerda Tapia, a Chilean citizen, 33 years old, married and a native of Combarbala. He admitted to the police that he was entrusted with collecting membership dues from a number of Party members, although he refused to reveal their names. He said he was the owner of 412 Communist Party stamps of various denominations which were to be sold to members at prices ranging from 2 to 75 pesos.

Jose Escobar Montecinos, a 58 year old Chilean citizen, single, and a farm laborer. Escobar Montecinos stated that a plan was also being made to form a committee of resistance composed of farm laborers, with the basic idea of Communist agitation in rural work.

Carlos Guerrero Alvarez, a native of Santiago, 33 years old, and single. Guerrero Alvarez was reported in July 1944 as being a member of the Communist Party Committee of the First Commune of Santiago. He attended the 15 April meeting as the delegate of the Santiago Central Committee of the FCOCh, and was supposed to report on the results of the meeting and the progress achieved by the local committees in complying with a three-month plan for work, which was to be completed 25 May 1949.

Jose Pastene Carrasco, a Chilean citizen, 43 years old, and married. Pastene Carrasco was interned in Los Vilos for his Communist activities in January 1948. Prior to that time, he was a teacher in School No. 1 of Maipo and has also held positions as Councilman for the Province of O'Higgins and as an alderman in Buin.

Luis Perez Retamales, a Chilean citizen and native of Palmilla, 40 years old and single. An agricultural worker employed on the Santa Laura de Paine farm, he was invited to this meeting so that he could later report to farm laborers on the decisions reached.

**Comment.** The newspapers of 19 April publicized the arrest of the Communists and proclaimed it as the discovery of a new subversive movement. It is believed the meeting was much less important than the press indicated.

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