

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

25X1A

SUBJECT Communist Position in Coming Election

NO. OF PAGES 2

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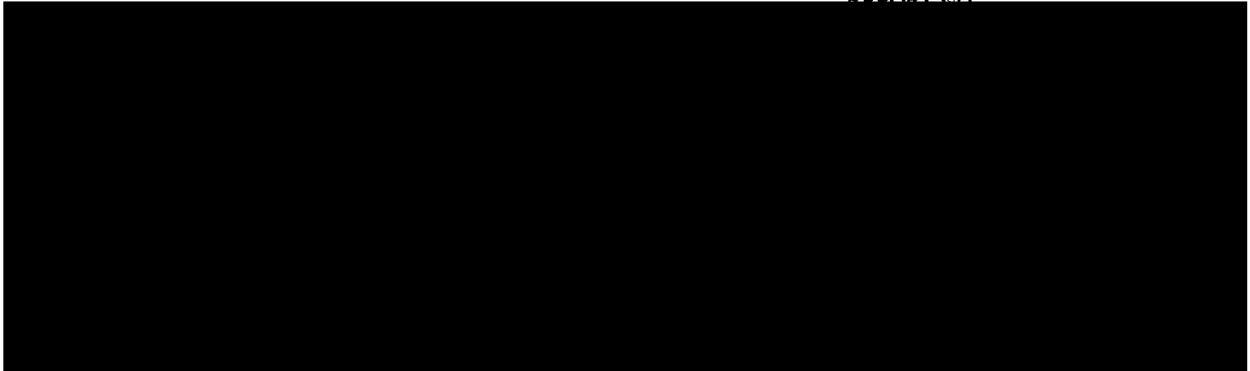
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. A meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) was called on 13 October 1949 to discuss the Communist position with respect to the presidential election scheduled for 27 November 1949. The meeting, attended by Gilberto Vieira White, Jaime Barrios, Julio C. Posada, Carlos Arturo Aguirre, Renato Arango, Pedro J. Abella, Mercedes Abadia, Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Jorge E. Bayona, Jesus Villegas Palacio and Filiberto Barrero, was led by Juan Francisco Mujica, who was considered well qualified because of his close friendship with Dario Echandia, Liberal candidate for president.
2. At the meeting, Vieira White pointed out that the PCC directors must decide upon the Party policy without delay and stated that the PCC cannot remain indifferent to the present conflict since it would be the first to be persecuted by a fascist government. He stated that the PCC should act on the assumption that the inauguration of a new government in Colombia will force the Party to dissolve and go underground, and added that the Communist Party cannot expect much leniency under a Liberal administration since Echandia and other Liberal leaders have declared themselves anti-Communist. Vieira White also stated that Party propaganda should be based on the fact that the PCC is caught between two fundamentally anti-Communist forces: the Liberals, who have denied any connection with the Communist program but have not attacked the Communists, and the Conservatives, who have declared open war on Communism on all fronts. The PCC, threatened from both sides, can expect no aid from world Communist centers because of the world conflict between imperialism and Communism.
3. Vieira White reiterated the necessity of organizing a secret intelligence brigade within the Party to keep the leaders informed, as a replacement for the so-called shock brigades which had previously been maintained and which could no longer function, as their use under present conditions would only result in a needless sacrifice of valuable elements.
4. Mujica, who also discussed the need for a definite Communist policy, stated that the importance of the nomination of Dr. Laureano Gomez as the Conservative candidate for president must be considered because his name is expected to increase Conservative enthusiasm. On the other hand, his nomination will increase the appeal of the Liberal Party among those who consider Gomez to be the greatest enemy of democratic institutions in Colombia. His nomination is viewed as clear evidence that the Conservatives are sure of winning the election as Gomez would not expose himself to the possibility of defeat. Mujica added

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that there would be no doubt of a Liberal Party victory if the election were decided solely on the basis of the preference of the people. However, the contest will be between the unarmed people, overwhelmingly Liberal, and the national government backed by the power of the police and the armed forces.

Mujica commented on the fact that on the surface, the Conservative program, as expounded by both Gomez and Guillermo Leon Valencia during the Conservative convention, comes closer to the Communist program than does that of the Liberals. Gomez and the other Conservative leaders have declared in favor of an openly anti-capitalistic, Christian-Socialist form of government, while Echandia has stated that he will defend capital. This contradiction of principles has been to the advantage of the Conservatives. According to Mujica, the Gomez government would have the following characteristics:

- a. It would be of a corporative type, patterned after the system in Portugal.
- b. It would be a Christian-Socialist type of government, as opposed to Marxist.
- c. In the international field, it would favor the establishment of close relations with the United States.
- d. It would be definitely anti-Semitic and anti-Communist, and would suppress the present slight masonic influence.
- e. The present congress would be replaced by a corporative system, such as exists in Portugal and formerly existed in Italy under fascism.

Mujica stated that he had received this information from Jose Socarras who is now in Paris. Socarras was reported to have written that the committee of Spanish exiles in France had completed information about the discussions and studies carried out by Laureano Gomez in Spain and Portugal on systems of government applicable to Colombia.

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