

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 9 JAN 50

SUBJECT Liberal Party Activities

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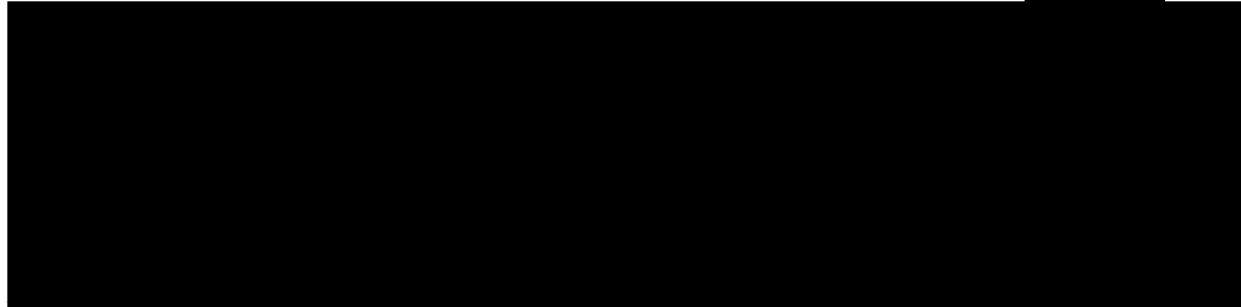
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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g REPORT NO.



1. On 27 November 1949, Dr. Dario Echandia, Liberal Party leader, received a group of left-wing Liberals representing the JEGA,* who informed him that their movement will no longer accept instructions from the National Liberal Directorate nor will it seek its counsel. The JEGA considers itself an independent organization under the command of retired army officers, including General Jorge Martinez Landinez and Captain Gustavo Gomez Posada.
2. The groups which make up the JEGA include some which are definitely anarchistic and do not recognize the authority of the Liberal Directorate which they accuse of having sold out to the Conservatives. They particularly distrust Liberal leader Carlos Lleras Restrepo. As a result of this attitude, it is felt that there may be attacks on certain Liberal leaders by members of their own party. This split between the leaders and the masses is becoming more apparent and has made it impossible for the directorate to carry out many of its plans or to form a national popular front.
3. At the meeting with Echandia, the JEGA group presented the following outline of its future activities:
 - a. JEGA is completely rejecting the leadership of Senator Carlos Lleras Restrepo, who is considered to have been largely responsible for the disaster which has befallen the Liberal Party.
 - b. JEGA groups have been organized to form resistance brigades in Bogota and in the capitals of the Departments. These brigades are secret and their members are designated by numbers rather than names.
 - c. These groups will no longer tolerate the assassination of party leaders, but are resolved to take reprisals against Conservative leaders whenever the opportunity arises. They have compiled the following list of outstanding enemies of the Liberal Party:

Laureano Gomez, President-elect
 Gilberto Alzate Avendano, Senator
 Jose Maria Villareal, Senator
 Santiago Trujillo, Mayor of Bogota
 Lucio Pabon Nunez, Governor of Santander (North)
 Hernando Sorzano Salazar, Governor of Santander (South)
 Luis Ignacio Andrade, Minister of Government

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- d. JEGA believes that Liberal workers should continue in their jobs, in order to be in a position to act most effectively in sabotaging the government or private industry.
 - e. All brigades will be charged with the carrying out of personal attacks against Conservatives and collaborators, but a special brigade has been created which will have the sole task of committing acts of violence against the enemy.
 - f. The JEGA group believes that the strike order issued by the Liberal Directorate before the elections was most ill advised, since it was only partially effective and hurt the workers economically.
4. Dr. Echandia, who was not in agreement with the above JEGA plans because he thought they were subversive and would only bring about an ironclad dictatorship by Laureano Gomez or the establishment of a military regime, stated that he would discuss these plans with Jorge Uribe Marquez, member of the Liberal Directorate and head of the JEGA, in an attempt to persuade him to modify the line of conduct being contemplated by the Liberal left wing group.
 5. The Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC) has been considering the problem of the split in the Liberal Party. It was decided that Dr. Dario Echandia shall assume the leadership of the National Liberal Directorate in an attempt to avoid a complete party split. It was also thought possible that large numbers of lower-class Liberals may be supporting the Communist Party without formally joining it.
 6. Source also reported that Jorge Villaveces, president of the Liberal Municipal Directorate of Bogota and member of the House of Representatives, was arrested on 25 November 1949, along with five others who had thrown a bomb toward the Escuela General de Policia. Villaveces** stated that the National Liberal Directorate had paid him Ps. 10,000 to organize terrorism in Bogota. His companions had been engaged to commit sabotage and attacks against the conservatives.

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*Cf. [REDACTED]

**Cf. [REDACTED]

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Villaveces had previously been reported as a leader in the organization of Defense Committees in Bogota.

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