

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

131

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COUNTRY Colombia  
 SUBJECT Split in the CTC

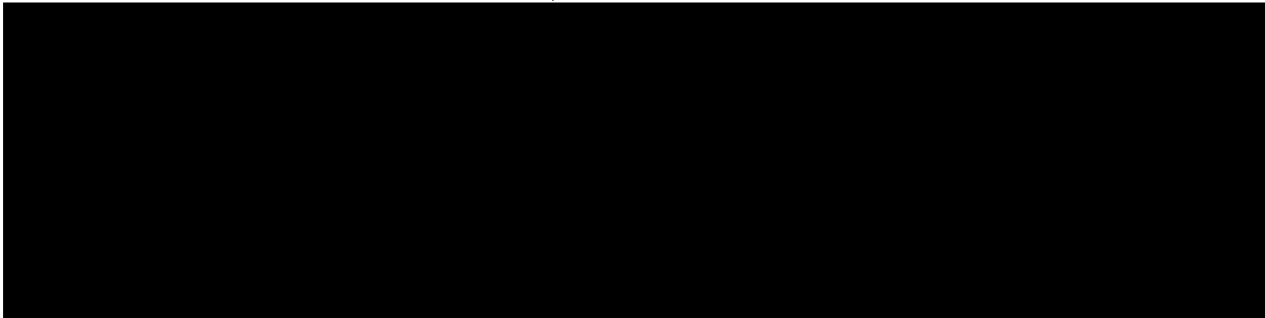
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



- The Communist delegates who walked out of the Tenth Congress of Workers of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC), following their defeat on 6 May when the Congress voted 178 to 141 to break with the CTAL, have set up what they are calling the Independent CTC.\* Filiberto Barrero, Jesus Villegas Palacio, Carlos Arias, Ismael Escamilla, Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Carlos Arturo Aguirre, with Juan Francisco Mujica as legal advisor, appear to be the principal leaders of the group.
- The group has formed a so-called confederal committee of 37 members, of which 13 are militant Communists. The remainder are nearly all Communist sympathizers, some of whom have applied to join the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCG), according to source. The following are the militant Communists on the committee, and the group of workers which they claim to represent:

Jesus Villegas Palacio	Construction workers syndicate of Cundinamarca
Ignacio Llevano	Railroad workers of Cundinamarca
Filiberto Barrero	Shoemakers syndicate of Cundinamarca
Uriel Salas	Syndicate of Bavaria, Bogota
Melcias Molina	Farm workers and laborers syndicate of Cundinamarca
Ventura Puentes Vanegas	Syndicate of employees of the Department of Cundinamarca
Pedro J. Abella	Construction workers syndicates of the Department of Tolima
Matilde Esteves	Tobacco workers of Cundinamarca
Rafael Atchortua Lopez	Laborers (braceros) of the Magdalena River
Carlos Arturo Aguirre	Syndicate of employees of the Contraloria General (General Comptrollership)
Ignacio Bejarano	Syndicate of textile workers of Cundinamarca
Martin Camargo	Farm workers syndicates and groups of the Department of Santander
Efraim Gomez R.	Syndicate of the rayon mill of Barranquilla

- To draw up statutes for the new group, a commission has been named composed of Juan Francisco Mujica, Carlos H. Pareja, Diego Montana Cuellar, Carlos Arturo Aguirre, Ismael Escamilla, Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Filiberto Barrero,

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25X1A

- 2 -

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and Jesus Villegas Palacio. The statutes will be based on the group's declaration that it constitutes itself an independent national labor central, without political ties and open to all workers without discrimination as to politics, religion or social beliefs.

4. The Executive Committee of the Independent CTC is as follows: \*\*

Luis Galan	President
Hector Gaitan	Vice-President
Jesus Villegas Palacio (Communist)	Secretary
Ignacio Lievano (Communist)	Secretary of Organization
Jorge Casas	Secretary of Exterior Relations
Uriel Salas (Communist)	Press Secretary
Helcias Molina (Communist)	Secretary of Rural Affairs
Filiberto Barrero (Communist)	Treasurer

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5. The dissident group met regularly during the week following the CTC Congress with an observer from the Ministry of Labor present. [REDACTED] that the tolerant attitude thus far shown by the Colombian government toward this leftist group can be explained by the Conservatives' desire to cripple the Liberal-supported CTC and fear that the Liberal CTC, purged of Communists and affiliated with the world-wide democratic movement represented by the IOFTU, might become a bulwark in the labor field for the Liberal party and a threat to the Conservative-sponsored Union de Trabajadores de Colombia (UTC). [REDACTED] it is generally expected that the Colombian government will delay action on the request made by the Liberal CTC to decide which of the two CTC's is the legal one.

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6. The Independent CTC is confident that some of the largest labor unions in Colombia will affiliate with it. At the present time, it is sure of the FEDENAL (National Federation of Maritime, River and Port Transportation Workers), the Sevilla Fruit Company unions, the Syndicate of Bavaria in Bogota, the shoemakers' unions in all of the departments, the railroad unions of Cundinamarca, and the field workers of Cundinamarca and Tolima.
7. Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, has been following these developments carefully without taking an open part in them. [REDACTED] PCC leaders feel that sooner or later the Colombian government must decide between the two groups, and that its decision is likely to become known through action taken on the still pending accusation made by the government against the CTC for interfering in politics. In the event of a decision against the CTC, the government may dissolve it. The PCC believes that the government would prefer a CTC containing Communists to a purely Liberal organization, and considers that there is a possibility that the Labor Court's decision in the case will be so contrived as to apply to the Liberal CTC only.

8. The Communists have set up an Executive Syndical Committee composed of Jesus Villegas Palacio, Uriel Salas, Helcias Molina and Filiberto Barrero. Two of these individuals, Villegas Palacio and Salas, were former collaborators of Augusto Duran. Barrero at one time was one of the most determined anti-Duranistas, but has recently become more friendly toward Duran. [REDACTED] some PCC leaders feel that the formation of this new group indicates that Duran is on the road to becoming the top Communist leader in Colombia. 25X1X

9. Communist leaders who intervened actively in the CTC Congress were Carlos R. Carvajalino, Commission of Organization of the Congress; Rafael Atehortua Lopez, Commission of Justice; Pedro Jose Abella and Uriel Salas, Commission of Finance; Carlos Arias, Commission of Exterior Relations; Jose Miguel Paz, Commission of Economy; Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Commission of Statutes; and Carmen de Lama of the Secretariat of the Congress.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 3 -

25X1X

10. [REDACTED] most of the sessions of the Congress were very heated, with the Communists trying a variety of delaying tactics to prevent a vote on the CTAL issue. Delio Enciso, outgoing President of the CTC, reportedly made the statement following the Congress that had the Communists taken a less belligerent attitude, the issue of joining the ICFU would not have come to a vote. Enciso said that he and his companions had only planned to force a break with the CTAL and the WFTU, but Communist belligerency had provoked them to go all the way and submit to a vote the question of joining the ICFU.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The Eighth Congress of the CTC, which began 12 August 1946, resulted in a split in the CTC and the formation of two central labor confederations, composed of Communist and Liberal elements respectively, each claiming to be the legitimate CTC. The two groups united in early December 1946 and each group received six of the twelve positions on the provisional Executive Committee of the unified CTC.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The following are the new directors of the Liberal CTC:

Manuel Diaz Enriquez	President
Hernan A. Pinillos	Vice-President
Sabas Valencia	Secretary
Hernando Rodriguez	Fiscal Secretary
Valerio Cardenas Fermin	Treasurer
Jose Raquel Mercado	Secretary of Organization
Daniel Garcia Vidal	Secretary of Exterior Relations
Juan Cortes Martinez	Press Secretary
Arturo Pena	Secretary of Farm Matters

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