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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Uruguay

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT XV National Congress of CPU

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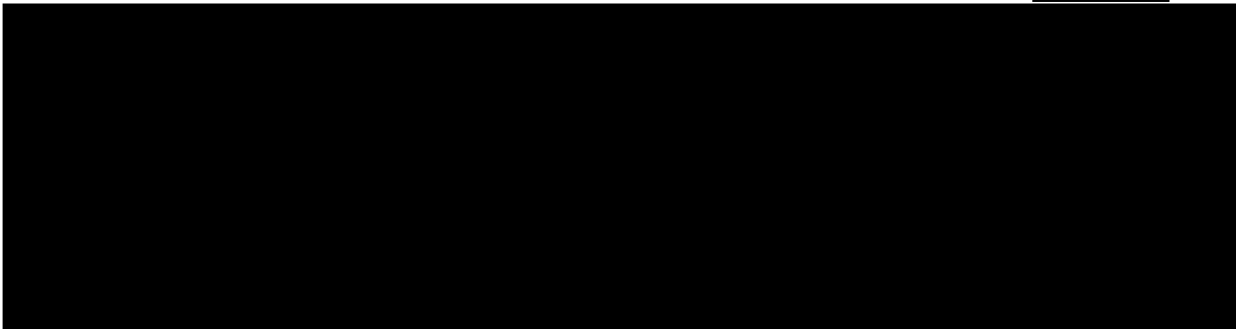
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. [redacted] the clock-like precision in which the XV National Congress of the Communist Party of Uruguay (CPU) was controlled during the period 18-21 May indicated the complete and thorough manner in which the Communist leaders had prepared for the event.* All speeches went according to schedule, there were no arguments among any of the delegates, and the leaders' viewpoints and decisions were completely accepted by those attending the meeting.
2. In the keynote address of the Congress, Eugenio Gomez, Secretary General of the Party, called for the CPU to lead the battle for "peace" against the U.S. imperialists and demanded all-out organizational efforts so as to bring the Party to its peak of strength during the period of the national elections in November 1950. Other well-known leaders followed Gomez' lead in exhorting their followers to greater endeavors, and their speeches presented in detail the current status of Communist activities in Uruguay.
3. No unusual Party statute reforms were effected, and the election of the National and Department of Montevideo Committees included no radical changes. It was noticed, however, that the Party is making a pronounced attempt to expand its activities throughout Uruguay, and at the conference, leaders from the interior were given the right to speak on numerous occasions. Several were named as members of the 1950 National Committee. For some unknown reason, none of the CPU Deputy or Senatorial candidates were announced at the Congress as had been expected.
4. Approximately 1500 national affiliates and delegates attended the initial meeting in the esplanade on 18 May. On 19-20 May, sessions of the Congress were held at the Party Headquarters, Calle Sierra 1720. Attendance at these meetings was closely controlled by members of the Party security guard, and it is known that only the 200 delegates and specifically invited guests were admitted into the convention room. The Congress was terminated on 20 May with the election of the National and Department of Montevideo Committees. The meetings were enhanced by the attendance of several foreign Communist delegates representing Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.

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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

5. The following information obtained during the period of the Congress outlines the order of activities and gives a resume of the more important speeches, and the attendance and activities of the assembled delegates.

18 May 1950

6. At 2100 hours in the municipal esplanade the XV National CPU Congress was opened by the Secretary General of the Department of Montevideo, Rodney Arismendi, who made a short address to the approximately 1500 assembled Party affiliates. Julio Dutrenit, important member of the Communist-controlled Ediciones Pueblos Unidos, made a short speech denouncing the policies of the United States Government. Upon the completion of his speech, Dutrenit read telegrams of adherence sent by the Communist Parties of the USSR, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Spain, Chile, Portugal, Bolivia and Mexico. At the completion of Dutrenit's part on the program, the following foreign Communist delegates made short addresses attacking the U.S. Government: Rodolfo Ghioldi of Argentina, Pedro de Carvalho Braga of Brazil, and Hugo Pintos of Paraguay. Raul Toast, representing the Communist Party units of the interior of Uruguay, then addressed the gathering and echoed the anti-U.S. diatribe of the speakers before him.
7. The meeting was terminated by Eugenio Gomez, who also spent much of his time attacking the U.S. imperialist policy in Uruguay and its latest effort to enslave the people by means of the Uruguayan-U.S. Commercial Treaty.
8. At the termination of Gomez' speech, previously selected delegates were given instructions as to how they should conduct themselves at the closed sessions of the Congress, to be held during the next two days. They were advised by section leaders to be prompt in arrival at meetings, to take copious notes concerning the important speeches which would be made and, in voting for the candidates for the National and Departmental Committees, to consider the ones who would be best qualified, i.e., those who were favored by Party leaders. At that time entrance passes were given to the delegates.

19 May 1950

9. At 0845 the Congress convened at the Party Headquarters with approximately 200 delegates and especially invited individuals in attendance to hear a three-hour speech by Eugenio Gomez. Much of the material covered by Gomez had previously been published for the use of the delegates, thus enabling them to follow closely the long address.** Gomez constantly reiterated the importance of the Communist support of the cause of "peace." He declared that it was imperative for the Party to fight against the imperialistic and warlike actions of the U.S., who now had extended its control over Uruguay to the extent that the local government was proposing the signing of a commercial treaty with a country which already controlled \$70,000,000 (U.S.) of industry in Uruguay. Gomez claimed that the Communist Party was alone in its fight against forces of imperialism, since none of the other so-called liberal parties, or other national political groups, had come out in defense of the Uruguayan workers. It was for this reason, he stated, the CPU had decided to enter a Presidential candidate in the national election in November 1950.
10. After this beginning, Gomez went into a long discussion of his now well-known "seven points," which include demands for improved living conditions, increased salaries, and welfare benefits. Later, when discussing labor, Gomez made a strong attack against Enrique Rodriguez, Communist Deputy, Co-Secretary General of the UGT and outstanding labor leader.

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

When describing the financial situation of the Party, Gomez discussed the difficulty the Party previously had with Alberto Suarez, former National Secretary of Finances, who had been found guilty of not following the Party Line, but who now had seen the error of his ways and accordingly had been reinstated as the Secretary General of the Regional Sur.

11. The problem of eliminating opportunists was developed by Gomez more fully as he explained that the Party now, more than at any time in the past, was making an effort to remove those who were not following the Party Line and were considered to be opportunists. He said that control commissions would become increasingly severe in their reports concerning the activities of suspected individuals. In reviewing election plans, the Party Chief said Communist cells would soon become election clubs and they, in turn, would have to develop sympathizer groups. These units would be formed in all sections of Montevideo, as well as all of the interior of Uruguay. He said plans were being made to commence a daily newspaper during the election campaign, and he named June 1950 as a tentative date for the periodical's appearance. Gomez ended his speech with a call for funds, stating that without finances none of the above-mentioned plans could be carried out successfully. The meeting adjourned at 1215 hours, after voting Stalin as the honorary President of the Congress.
 12. At 1435 hours on the same day, the Congress met again to hear Eugenio Gomez Chiribao, National Secretary of Organization, call for specific activity in regard to the organization endeavors of the CPU. In addition to the seven point program, he said it was necessary that the Communist speed up their organization drives so that they could reach the goals set by his father. He further stated that the Party currently had only two Regional Committees, 11 Departments and 150 Agrupaciones in activity.
 13. Citing specific examples of faulty organization, Gomez singled out port cells*** for not consolidating into one group, and he criticized the Party opportunists such as Enrique Rodriguez. As an example of efficient Party work, he praised the constant and loyal work of Ramon Freire Pizzano. For future plans he said that delegates present would have to carry out the idea of successfully forming Pro-Communist election groups, which are to be known as the Comites de Fuerza Patriotica. He recommended that each member visit three inactive comrades and bring them back into Party affairs.
 14. Among the various Communist leaders who made short speeches in rapid succession were: Jose Luis Massera, Secretary General of the Junta Nacional de Partidarios de la Paz, who attacked Enrique Rodriguez for not cooperating with the "Pro-Peace" movement; Cesar Reyes Daglio, member of the Montevideo Departmental Committee; fnu Lisaguere from Durazno; Raul Toast, representing the Regional Norte; Geronimo Arnedo Alvarez, Argentine Communist Party observer; Hermes Gadda of the Maldonado Department; Joaquim da Silva, Brazilian Communist Party observer; Pedro Miguel Astapenko of the Canelones Department; Leopoldo Bruera; Juan Francisco Pazos; Antonio Richero; Miguel Wolman and Emilin Garcia from the Minas Department. These addresses merely repeated the necessity of strong Party organization to combat the influence of the warmongering Yankees. The Congress adjourned at 2130 hours.
- 20 May 1950
15. The Congress opened again at the Party Headquarters at 0835 hours, at which time Juan Acuña, Montevideo Department Secretary of Propaganda, gave a short speech concerning the status of the official Party organ, Justicia. After this, a daily dues collection was taken and delegates were again checked for their Congress carnets of entrance. The following leaders addressed the Congress: Sebastian Zeballos of the Department of Rocha, fnu Caballeo, Antonio Denis and Carlos Leone, Communist Deputy. After these individuals finished, a letter of congratulation to the CPU from the Hungarian Communist Party was read to the group. Speeches were continued by Marcelino Rcdriguez

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-4-

of the Section 9 of Montevideo, Hugo Pintos of the Paraguayan Communist Party, Omar Sosa, Hector Rodriguez, Julia Arevalo de Roche, Wilfredo Figueras, Juan Mujica, Enrique Pastorino and Jaime Perez. Jose Blanco, leader of the UGT maritime group, said on 25 May his organization would create a 24-hour work stoppage in Montevideo and other Uruguayan coastal ports in protest against maritime police authorities. At 1200 hours the session was suspended until 1420 hours when the Congress reconvened with additional speakers.

16. Richero opened the afternoon session with a short statement concerning the financial condition of the Party. He claimed that the Communists in 1949 had a debt of \$160,000 Pesos Uruguayan, but that in May 1950 the Party had succeeded in reducing this amount to \$83,143 Pesos Uruguayan. Richero added that the Party was now entering a crucial period of finances, since the election campaign would create unusual expenses for propaganda, the all-important weapon for victory. He urged that special financial drives, raffles, dances, benefit motion pictures, and parties be conducted in order to meet the expected increase of Party expenditures. He said that he was going to issue a new Party bond in 1950 for the purpose of financing a new Communist daily newspaper. Richero was followed by Alfredo Laureiro, Milton Montemar, Alberto Suarez, and Carlos Barrios Paez.
17. At 1800 hours there was a short intermission of 30 minutes, at which time the delegates were permitted to relax, but not to leave the building. Resuming the Congress at 1830 hours, Enrique Rodriguez at last was allowed to speak. He said that he was in full accord with all of the criticism which had been directed toward him and he asked the Congressional Delegates to have confidence in him and to permit him to continue in Party affairs, even if it were at a base level.**** He said that he would re-dedicate himself to the only cause to which he could be loyal--COMMUNISM!
18. Immediately Arismendi took the floor and said Rodriguez' auto-criticism was entirely inadequate, that his previous errors and deviations could not be permitted in the Party, and that the CPU should bar him from any high position. His speech was applauded warmly by virtually all members of factions close to Gomez. Shortly after Arismendi's attack on Rodriguez, the voting for the National and Department of Montevideo Committees commenced.
19. The nomination committee was composed of the following high-ranking Communist leaders: Eugenio Gomez, Antonio Richero, Julia Arevalo, Pedro Astapenko and Cesar Reyes Daglio. They distributed a list of nominees who had been chosen by the Party members a week earlier. While the lists of nominees were being distributed, Richero took charge of the voting and asked the delegates if there were any questions about the candidates which they found on the ballots. [REDACTED] only one person began to protest and then was immediately noticed to be questioned by Richero and others, so that the unknown delegate immediately withdrew her half-hearted attempt to question the procedure of nominations. At this time, the Commission of Statutes and Programs, composed of Massera, Mujica, Eugenio Gomez, V. Taylor, Rosita Dubinsky, Acuña and Pazos proposed that both Enrique Rodriguez and Alberto Suarez, former National Executive members, although they had been relieved of their positions, should be considered as candidates for the National Committee. It was mentioned that this would be the last chance for both men and would give the final answer as to whether the individuals had been unfairly criticized by the National Executive Committee. The resolution was unanimously approved. The voting then took place at three tables presided over by the following members: Table 1 - Bruera, Antognazza, Acuña, Pastorino; Table 2 - Dubinsky, Arismendi, Barrios, Bolman, Acosta; Table 3 - Gomez Chiribao, Olmos, Suarez and Toast.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

-5-

CONFIDENTIAL

20. The newly-elected National Committee, composed of 25 members and 9 alternates is as follows:

Eugenio Gomez	Jose Luis Massera
Eugenio Gomez Chiribao	Juan Mujica
Rodrey Arismendi	Enrique Pastorino
Julia Arevalo de Roche	Juan Francisco Pazos
Mario Acosta	Jaime Perez
Carlos Barrios	Enrique Rodriguez
Jose Blanco	Antonio Richero
Leopoldo Bruera	Hector Rodriguez
Vicente Denis	Vicente Robetta
Edison di Pasena	Alberto Suarez
Juan Garrido	Raul Toast
Silvio Imbriaco	Jose Zinola
Simon Krausov	

Alternates

Juan Acuña	Milton Montemar
Selmar Balbi	Rosario Pietrarroia
Ramon Freire Pizzano	Amalia Polleri
Alejandro Laureiro	Carlos Orteguy
Carlos Leone	

21. The new Department of Montevideo Committee is composed of 15 members as follows:

Cesar Reyes Daglio	Antongnazza
Julio Dutrenit	Arismendi
Wilder Taylor	Jose Wolman
Juan V. Mujica	Juan Acuña
Rosita Dubinsky	Eugenio Gomez Chiribao
Olmos	Roberto Lerroch
Techera	Ramon Martinez
Juan Francisco Pazos	

22. The following foreign delegates were in attendance at the Congress:

Argentina	Rodolfo Ghioldi and Geronimo Arnedo Alvarez
Brazil	Pedro de Carvalho Braga and Joaquim da Silva
Paraguay	Hugo Pintos
Spanish Communist Party	Vicente de Los Hoyos

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In preparation for the Congress and the 1950 national elections in November, the Communists held important confidential meetings of the National Executive and Montevideo Department committees. On 5 May when the Montevideo Department assembled its leaders to organize plans for the Congress, they were told how many delegates would be authorized from each unit and instructed to nominate candidates for the national elections, so that their nominees would be "democratically chosen" at the national congress. On 6 May the National Central Committee held a secret meeting in the Party headquarters for the purpose of actually choosing the Communist Deputy and Senatorial candidates for the 1950 elections. 25X1X

25X1A no matter which candidates are presented to the national Congress by the various low level units, the ones already named by the National Committee in a completely arbitrary manner, would be the ones nominated by the Party at the Congress.

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