

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia
SUBJECT National Congress of Partisans of Peace

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

The following additional information has been provided on the National Congress of the Partisans of Peace held in Bogota from 2-3 September 1950.*

1. For several months previous to the Pro-Peace Congress, the Colombian Communists had mentioned a forthcoming National Congress of the Partisans of Peace in their propaganda. The request for official permission to hold the Congress was made by the 39 year old writer Baldomero Sanin Cano; by Enrique Perez Arbelaez, associate of leftists and Communists; by the one-time Colombian Cultural Attache in Moscow, Cesar Uribe Piedrahita; and by Jorge Regueros Peralta, Communist journalist, lawyer, and a leading member of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC). Permission to hold the Congress was denied by the Mayor of Bogota until Baldomero Sanin Cano appealed personally to President Laureano Gomez. Sanin Cano reportedly argued that a Congress to promote peace was consistent with the current trend of public opinion in Colombia, and promised that apart from the world-wide aspects of the peace campaign, the Congress would stress the internal pacification of Colombia.**

2. The National Committee of the Partisans of Peace was composed of the following:

Honorary President	Baldomero Sanin Cano	Leftist writer and philosopher.
President	Luis Carlos Perez	Ex-Secretary of the Instituto Colombo-Soviético
Vice-President	Gerardo Molina	Former rector of the National University, presently residing in Paris
Vice-President	Lucila Rubio de Laverde	Member of the Communist women's Alianza Femenina
Secretary General	Jorge Regueros Peralta	Journalist, writer, and leader of the PCC

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Secretary of Organization	Carlos Canal Irwin	Communist
Treasurer	Mercedes Abadia	Leader of Alianza Femenina
Director of Organ of National Committee	Graciela Mendoza de Vanegas	(unidentified)
Members (Vocales)	Dario Sampor	Leftist Liberal and Director of the leftist newspaper <u>Jornada</u>
	Elisa Mujica	Communist
	Dr. Gustavo Gomez Hernandez	(unidentified)
	Dr. Manuel Jose Gaitan	Brother of Jorge Eliccer Gaitan
	Matilde Espinoza de Perez	Leader of Alianza Femenina
	Marco Ospina	Communist intellectual
	Julio Abril	PCC representative to the Congress, Cundinamarca
	Luis Vidales	Leftist journalist (<u>Jornada</u>)
	Carlos Ariel Gutierrez	Communist sympathizer, residing in Mexico
	Juan Francisco Mujica	Political advisor, PCC Central Committee
	Luis A. Galan	President of the Communist influenced Independent CTC
	Augusto Duran	Communist leader

3. As of the end of August, the National Committee had published the first issue of a newspaper called Paz y Democracia. Baldonero Sanin Cano financed the newspaper, which cost 300 pesos to publish. Source considered it probable that at least one more issue would appear, either on the opening day of the Congress, or soon after the Congress ended. Colombian Communists also took up a collection among themselves and among sympathizers to assist in financing the Congress.***
4. The agenda of the Congress as announced in Paz y Democracia, was:
- a. Analysis of the real danger of a new war;
 - b. How war plans affect the economy, development, and independence of Colombia;
 - c. Organization and orientation of the movement of the Partisans of Peace in Colombia;
 - d. Relations with the world movements of the Partisans of Peace;
 - e. Election of the National Committee of the Partisans of Peace.

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~~Comment.~~ Source speculated that President Gomez expected the Congress to be tied in with the Liberal Party and some of its leaders, which would ultimately react to the detriment of the Liberals.

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~~Comment.~~ Attendance at the Congress was to be by invitation only, issued by the National Committee of the Partisans of Peace, of which at least eleven out of twenty members are known Communists. As previously reported, the Communists planned to take advantage of the Pro-Peace Congress to hold a clandestine meeting of worker and peasant leaders who were to be issued invitations.

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