

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR 17 OCT 50

SUBJECT Political Activities in Zulia and Falcon Areas 25X1A

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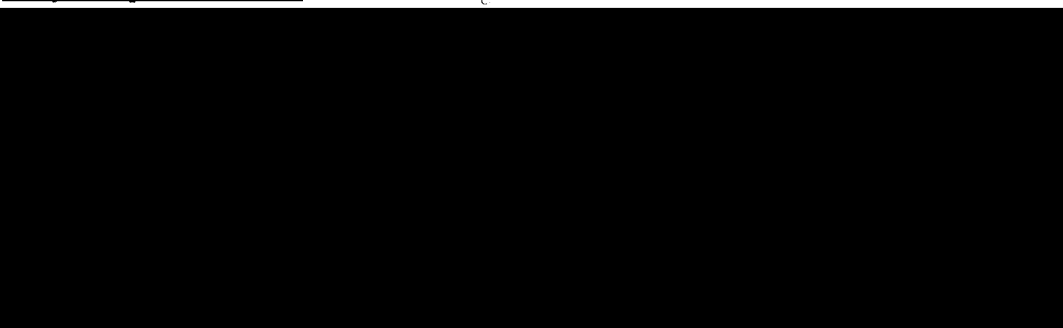
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

File 310



- 1. [redacted] there is a noticeable increase in Accion Democratica (AD) activities at present in the Zulia and Falcon areas. Following the failure of the May strike attempt and the suppressive actions taken by the government against AD and Communist factions, a period of comparative quiet occurred. Since July 1950 the resurgence of clandestine activities has become more and more noticeable. Reports from eastern Venezuela confirm the increase of AD activities.
- 2. Meetings of local AD groups are being reported from various camps throughout the western oil-producing areas. These meetings are being held in homes of known AD supporters, with comparatively small numbers attending. Increase in clandestine handbills and newspapers, bearing the AD party as a source, has been noticed. Rumors also exist that AD party leaders are traveling to and from the Colombian border on AD business. Luis VERA, believed identical with the former Maracaibo Municipal Council President, is mentioned as one of those recently visiting Zulia.
- 3. In two former AD labor strongholds, Casigua and Lagunillas, steps are being taken for the formation of new syndicates, both bearing the name Asociacion de Trabajadores Libres de Petroleo (ATLP). Company officials in these areas believe that, if the syndicates were approved on the basis of an acceptable membership and political affiliation, they would shortly become dominated by AD, which still controls the allegiance of a majority of the workers. Oilmen with whom source has talked believe that the workers will respond to any strike that their former syndicate heads would call.
- 4. On the Paraguana peninsula, the labor inspector has reportedly been notified by the Ministry of Labor to allow the legalization of the Organizacion de Trabajadores de la Industria Petrolera (OTIP) de los Municipios Punta Cardon y Los Taques. The Carirubana labor commissioner, Luis TIRADO, reportedly stated that the government is lending its support to this new group, which has been in a dormant status pending approval, in order to weaken the COPEL-controlled Sindicato de Trabajadores Organizados de Petroleo (STOP) de los Municipios Los Taques y Punta Cardon. The URD group reportedly receives support from Lopez Uiloa of the Ministry of Labor.

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