

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 23 Mar 51

NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1X

File 83

COUNTRY Costa Rica

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Communist Party Activities
25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.



1. Since the first two bombings in San Jose, two more attempts have been made which show a lack of direction and coordination that would tend to remove all suspicion from Communists, supporters of Figueres or adherents of the present Costa Rican Government using the pretext to gain political objectives. The stick of dynamite that was exploded at the entrance of the Nicaraguan Consulate, on 3 February, and a similar attempt on the Banco Nacional on 5 February 1951, are the two most recent incidents.

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2. In connection with the previous bombing of the house of Enrique Sancho Jimenez, a different source disputed the statement made in a previous report* to the effect that Communist leaders had suggested that Sancho run for the presidency of Costa Rica as a Communist candidate. [redacted] leaders or representatives ever approached Enrique Sancho with such a proposition. The apparent assumption that Sancho, being an enemy of Jose Figueres, would therefore become an ally of the Communist Party, source regards as absurd, since Sancho, a wealthy man, would lose more than he could gain by affiliating himself with the Communist Party.

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3. [redacted] current rumor in San Jose that Frank Marshall had declared to friends in a recent drinking bout that a bomb should be placed on the door-step of Enrique Sancho, and that he was "just the person to do it." [redacted] added that it was perhaps significant that two days later Marshall left San Jose for Changuinola, Panama.

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4. The first meeting of the Political Commission to be held after the bombings was on 27 January and lasted only a few minutes. The tension created by the bombing incidents, and a general fear of reprisals in raids and arrests by the authorities, limited the activities of the Commission, and only one resolution was passed at this meeting. A manifesto was drawn up to be signed by Manuel Mora, Arnoldo Ferreto, and Carlos Luis Fallas, directed to the Costa Rican Government, protesting against the accusations that the Communist Party had been responsible for the bombings. Three thousand copies of the manifesto were printed and distributed on or about 2 February 1951. In the opinion of Communist Party officials, as well as of the general public, the followers of Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia are the only ones who might profit by such activities against the present government.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007100070013-6

Document No. 13

No Change in Class.

Declassified

Class. Changed To: TO 10

Auth: BR 78-2

Date: 12/22/88

By: 025

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. At a subsequent meeting of the Political Commission, on 3 February 1951, a manifesto of exiled Nicaraguans resident in Guatemala was discussed. Present at this meeting in addition to Mora, Ferreto, and Fallas, were Efraim Rodriguez, Mario Solis, Jaime Cerdas, Gonzalo Sierra, Manuel Mosco, Alvaro Montero, and Luisa Gonzalez. The Nicaraguan exiles in Guatemala had forwarded their manifesto to the Liga Juvenil Revolucionario (LJR) and the Union de Mujeres Carmen Lyra (UMCL), stating that all democratic and anti-imperialistic organizations of America should declare themselves "against the U. S. Department of State's project to construct a canal in Nicaragua for military purposes." The manifesto was signed by Edelberto Torres and a group of Nicaraguans resident in Guatemala. On this point the LJR and the UMCL were in accord and replied to the document by offering aid in the fight against the construction of a canal for exclusively military purposes.
6. In view of the deficient provincial organization of the Party, the Secretary of Organization presented a plan for work during February which was approved by the Political Commission. Manuel Mora was to be responsible for the organizational work in the Province of Alajuela; Efraim Rodriguez for the Province of Heredia; Arnaldo Ferreto for Puntarenas and Quepos; and Mario Solis for Cartago and Turrialba. The work to be accomplished by these individuals was to be the formation of three cell organizations within the Provincial Committees.
7. Alvaro Montero presented a two-month work plan for the LJR, the Communist youth organization, for the initiation of a campaign against colonialism in Latin America. The plan was to be completed on 11 April, Juan Santamaria holiday, and would have as its symbol the martyr, Augusto Cesar Sandino. The plan called for the organization of anti-imperialist conferences where the following themes would be handled: the petroleum industry; the construction of a Nicaraguan canal; the Foreign Ministers' Conference; "Why Sandino Fought"; and imperialist penetration in America. Efforts were to be made during the campaign to interest non-Communist elements who in the past had been outstanding in their struggle for national sovereignty. Also included in the campaign was the UMCL, its part being to organize conferences for mothers at which the significance of the Foreign Ministers' Conference could be explained, to show what it would mean for Costa Rica in the case of war.
8. Gonzalo Sierra reported on the necessity of increasing efforts in the banana zone, to bring about syndicate unity with the Federation of the Banana Workers of the Pacific and the independent syndicates of this zone. Sierra stated that, according to reports he had received concerning the organization of the Federacion de Trabajadores Bananeros (FETRABA), conditions should be excellent for an attempt to establish a powerful syndicate movement of a united character. A committee was appointed to undertake a careful study of the matter and to edit a document for circulation in the banana zone, which was to be explained at the next session of the Political Commission. Sierra, Ferreto, and Fallas were appointed to this committee.
9. The recent visit to Costa Rica by Vicente Saenz and the report that he had had a conference with Manuel Mora were [redacted] who said that the conference was concerned principally with the purchase of a printing press. The interest of the Costa Rican Communist Party lies in the projected financial arrangements, [redacted] who added that the interest of Saenz in the purchase was not clear. The Communist Party of Costa Rica has about eighty thousand colones worth of stock in the press, which is valued at five hundred thousand colones. Disagreement among stockholders and the high cost of maintenance while the press is inactive are given as the reasons for selling the equipment, now in storage in San Jose.

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