

INFORMATION REPORT

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Communist and Anti-Communist Activities

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

The leaders of the Communist Party of Guatemala are fighting with every means at their disposal to have the Party registered as a legal entity. They are also working feverishly to unify all the revolutionary political parties. However, in spite of the help they have been receiving from certain highly placed public officials, they have not succeeded in gaining legal status as yet.

As a result of the clandestine fight carried out by the Party from 1947 until 19 June 1951, when the Party came out into the open with the direct help of the government of Dr. Juan Jose Arevalo and with the indirect help of public officials of the present regime, the Communists have made tremendous progress. In particular, the Communist deputies, whose activities are not denied by them or by the other deputies, among whom are the moderate leftists, and those of the Center as well as Rightists, and in spite of the knowledge which the government itself has of this organization, they have been permitted to take important political, as well as social and economic, positions.

In spite of the illegal status of the Party the legislative authorities sit by and watch the "illegal" organization penetrate high places, since the Communist organization is tireless in its efforts to obtain for its members the key positions of the government. The Party is bettering its position every day, even to the victory at the polls whereby the Communist deputies are now legislating, tolerated by the three highest powers in the State, the legislative, judicial, and the executive branches of the government.

The public participation with the Communist Party by the most outstanding members of the government of Colonel Jacobo Arbenz, in such affairs as the meetings held by the Pro-Peace Committee, and the anniversary celebration of the Communist paper Octubre, as well as the reception that was given to the highest leaders of international Communism at the recent Transportation Congress, at which the president of the legislative branch, the judiciary, and cabinet ministers represented the Guatemalan government, as a clear demonstration of the fact that the Guatemalan authorities were not averse to the activities and the progress made by the leaders of the Guatemalan Communist Party.

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In contrast to the government attitude toward Communism, there are now growing signs of social and political groups preparing to fight against Communism in Guatemala. Even in the case of the official political parties such as the

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Frente Popular Libertador (FPL), the Partido Renovacion Nacional (PRN), the Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR), and the Partido Integridad Nacional (PIN), although many of their members are taking part in the meetings organized by Communist leaders to promote the Frente Democratico Nacional, there are some members from each of these organizations who are moderate Leftists, Rightists, and some who will proclaim themselves anti-Communist. However, it is still true that the Communist group appears to have more chance of being successful in its plan for a united front.

Communist infiltration has been manifested particularly in the labor organizations, as well as in the educational organizations of Guatemala City and throughout the country. Also, in spite of the denials by the leaders of the Army and the police that there is Communist infiltration in their services, many of these men remain discreetly silent concerning their sympathies, in order to retain their jobs under a regime which is continuing to favor Communism.

25X1X Recently groups of students have banded together to fight against the Communist groups in the colleges and schools. The same thing is happening in the number one labor group, the Sindicato de Accion y Mejoramiento Ferrocarrilero (SAMP), where anti-Communist groups are growing stronger. The same anti-Communist trend is being noticed in the Escuela Normal Central de Varones, and among the organized labor unions in Puerto Barrios. [REDACTED] the division is going to become general as the fight against Communism starts to spread in Guatemala. A hopeful sign is that many of the radio broadcasting stations like the Continental, Ciro, and Voz de las Americas are constantly broadcasting slogans such as, "Let us fight against Communism; to combat it is patriotism, to practice it or publicize it is a crime."

Alfredo Guerra Borges, a member of the Guatemalan Communist Party, who imports much Party propaganda from Mexico, has said that the Guatemalan Communist Party was doing all in its power to establish a workers' library in Guatemala City such as they have in Mexico City, where all workers and farm laborers could come to obtain Communist literature.