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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Venezuela

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SUBJECT

Communist Influence in Asociacion Venezolana

de Periodistas (AVP)

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- 1. The Asociacion Venezolana de Periodistas (AVP) is an organization of newspaper writers and journalists founded in August 1941, with an office at Sociedad a Camejo No. 37 in Caracas. The AVP has affiliations in various of the cities in the interior of Venezuela, including San Cristobal, Merida, Trujillo, Berquisimeto, Maracay, Ciuded Bolivar, and Maturin.
- The AVP in Caracas has an estimated membership of 270, of whom approximately 110 are believed to be Communists or Communist sympathizers. While all political factions are represented in the AVP, the Communists have the strongest group.
- 3. The AVP holds meetings and programs from time to time, frequently featuring talks by prominent intellectuals and writers. It co-operates with the School of Journalism, offering occasional prizes and scholarships. A magazine, "El Periodista", published by the AVP, has appeared at irregular intervals since October 1948, the most recent numbers in April and October of 1951. Five articles in the April 1951 issue were pro-Communist; one article was by the American Embassy Cultural Section.
- The two most influential members of AVP are reported to be Miguel Otero Silva, editor of El Nacional, a Caracas daily, and Carlos Augusto Leon, a Venezuelan poet. Both of these men are Communists and leaders of the intellectual leftist elements in Venezuela.
- 5. Titular leader of the AVP is Luis Felipe Bellorin, secretary-general of the organization. Bellorin is a young journalist who has been an editor of a Catholic newspaper in Caracas La Religion. He is a conservative of social-christian tendencies. Earlier in 1951 he was subject to attacks on the charges that he was using the AVP for political ends; however, he has retained his position.
- 6. The actual leader of AVP is Luis Everisto Ramirez, organizational secretary and editor of the weekly news-magazine Signo. Ramirez is also an officer in the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa (SNTP). He is a member of the Partido Comunista de Venezuela (PCV).

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7. The last election in the AVP was held in October 1950, and a new election is scheduled to be held in October or November 1951. The present officers

Secretary-General

Alternate

Luis Felipe Bellorin

Aquiles Nazoa

Organizational Secretary

Alternate

Luis Evaristo Ramirez

Sergio Antillano

Financial Secretary

'lternate

Jose Ratto Jose Noguera

Sports and intertainment

Secretary

Oscar Escalona Oliver

Alternate

Graciela Schael Martinez

Minutes and Correspondence

Secretary

Simon Alberto Consalvi

lternate

Pedro Francisco Lizardo

Culture and Propaganda

Secretary

Humberto Rivas Mijares

/lternate

Francisco Salazar Martinez

Librarian 'lternate

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Lucila Velazquez Juan Lopez, hijo

Disciplinary Tribunal

higuel / costa Seignes

Lucila Palacios

Hector Aveledo Urbaneja

- 8. Acosta Seignes is a well known pro-Communist intellectual who is a professor of inthropology at the Central University.
- Intillano was reported a member of the FCV in Acut hata on 7 Jugust 1946. He is shown as a signer of a greeting to Gustavo Machado, PCV leader, published on 18 July 1946 in Ultimas koticies, and of a greeting to the USSR, published on 11 Kovember 1947 in PRP. A form letter sent to members of the Instituto Cultural Venezolanc-Sovietico (ICVS) in May 1951 showed his signature as secretary.
- 10, Eveledo was reported in July 1946 as a news editor of bl Universal and a strong conservative rightist.
- 11. Conselvi, who is also an CNTP official, is an Accion Democratica (AD) sup orter, although he has given support to Communist-sponsored movements.
- Scalona Oliver is considered to be an independent without political affiliation. He is a social reporter for <u>Al Macional</u> and is publicity director for Bolivar Films. He is about 32 years of age and is considered intelligent. In 1948 he was a member of the board of directors of the SNTP. His name appeared as a signer of a letter protesting the showing of the movie "The Iron Curtain" as war propaganda, published in Tribuna Popular on 6 October 1948. (Doc.)

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- 13. Lizardo was secretary of the Venezuelan Embassy at Moscow in 1947 and 1948. He is at present an editor of La bsfera and a member of the f-culty of the School of Journalism. Tribuna Popular on 28 September 1949 printed an interview by Lizardo in favor of the Pro-Paz movement. Ultimas Noticias on 26 April 1950 announced that he would speak at the ICVS on Russia. He was shown as a signer of greetings to the USSR on 11 November 1949 in PAP. (Doc.)
- Me. Nazea was a candidate for Deputy on the PCV ticket from the Federal District in 1947, according to official election lists. El Universal on 11 May 1951 and El Macional on 4 October 1950 reported him as scheduled to speak before the ICVS. Simo on 21 July 1951, commenting on a new book of poems written by Nazoa, described him as a writer and poet, who had written for horrocoy Azul, pro-Communist newspaper.
- 15. Noguera, an SNTP official, is an independent photographer who has previously admitted membership in the PCV. His present affiliation is not known, but he has been reported to be a leftist-independent at this time.
- 16. Lucila Palacios, aka Mercedes Carvajal de Arocha, is a writer who has been active in the Venezuelan Pro-Paz Committee. Ll Nacional on 31 August 1949 reported her as a delegate from Venezuela to the International Pro-Paz Conference in Mexico City in September 1949. It that time she was described as secretary of the Venezuelan Committee. (Doc.)

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- 17. Ratto is acting chief editor of <u>El Nacional</u>. He is a Peruvian by birth who has been naturalized as a Venezuelan. He is married and is about 40 years of age. Prior to 1940 he was a Communist sympathizer, but he subsequently become a supporter of General Medina. Recently he has shown signs of swinging back to his leftist sympathies, although he has not outwardly indicated that he is pro-Communist. His name is included in a list of persons sending greetings to the USSR by PRP on 11 November 1949 and as a signer of a letter protesting the showing of the movie "The Iron Curtain" as war propaganda in Tribuna Popular on 6 October 1948. Al Lacional on 26 November 1947 stated he had received a decoration from the Spanish Republican Government, (Doc.)
- 18. Rivas Rijares is secretary of the School of Journalism of the Central University and is not connected with any newspaper. He is considered an independent by his colleagues but has shown leftist tendencies. In December 1940 he was reported as a member of the ICVS. (In PRP on 11 November 1949 he was listed as a signer of a tribute to the USSR, and on 18 July 1945 he migned a tribute is <u>Ultimos Satisias</u> to Gusteva Machado (Doc.)

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- Schael was reported by Tribuna Popular on 5 May 1949 as a member of the committee to or smize the Feminine Committee for the Struggle for 'orld
- 20. Salazar in <u>H. Macional</u> on 3 Movember 1950 was mentioned as a porticipant in the ICVS program honoring the 33rd ampiversary of the USSR.
- 21. Velazquez, who was a member of the board of directors of the SNTP in 1949, has been reported to be active in the Agrupacion Cultural Feminina (ACF), a Communist-front or arization.

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