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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 578

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 6 DEC 51

COUNTRY Brazil

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUBJECT Centro de Estudos e Defesa do Petroleo e da Economia Nacional (CEDPEN), Communist-front Organization

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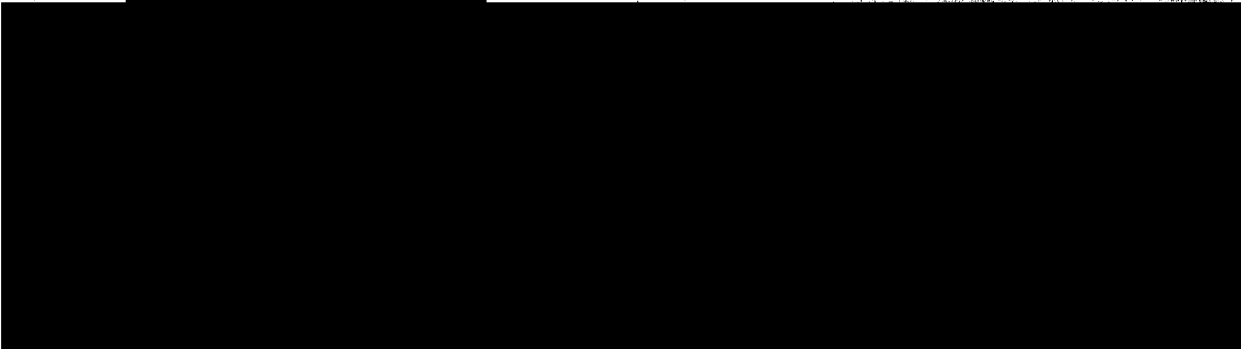
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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1. The Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) front organization, Centro de Estudos e Defesa do Petroleo e da Economia Nacional (Center for Study and Defense of Petroleum and the National Economy--CEDPEN) (1), which held a municipal congress in June 1951, ran the following candidates on tickets of legal parties in the October municipal elections in Santos:

- Joaquim Afonso - railroad worker and Partido Republicano Trabalhista (PRT) candidate.
- Luiz Alvares(2) - mason, Communist, president of the Civil Construction Workers' Relief Association, and Partido Social Trabalhista (PST) candidate.
- Renato Borgomini - merchant, Communist and PRT candidate.
- Luiz Fernandes Carranca - professor and Partido Socialista Brasileiro (PSB) candidate.
- Paulo Santos Cruz(3) - lawyer, Communist, and Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro (PTB) candidate.
- Oswaldo Franco Domingues - dental surgeon, municipal employee, and Partido Trabalhista Nacional (PTN) candidate.
- Wilson dos Santos Ferreira - dockworker and PST candidate.
- Denedito Tereso - bus driver and PRT candidate.

2. The Rio Grande do Sul CEDPEN(4), with present headquarters in the Santa Helena Building in Porto Alegre(5), which held its congress in July 1951, was founded in Rio Grande do Sul in 1948 as a civic organization. The Centro was originally called the Council for the Defense of National Petroleum, and its membership included many prominent persons, such as Professor Egidio Nerve, of the University of Rio Grande do Sul, who was its first president. Dr. Joao Pereira Sampaio(4), a member of the State Tribunal of Justice, was named secretary-general of the Centro, a position which he still holds.

3. The following state Communist leaders soon became members of the organization:

- Dr. Flavio Argolo(6) - dentist
- Prof. Cesar Avila - member of the state university's School of Medicine in Porto Alegre.
- Luiz Goulart - lawyer.

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Auth.: HR 70-2

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SECURITY INFORMATION

- Jose Tomaz Goncalves - journalist.
- Dr. Dionelio Machado - psychiatrist and former PCB state deputy.
- Erio Malafaia - designer.
- Antonio Pinheiro Machado Netto - lawyer.
- Otto Alicides Ohlweiler - chemical engineer and professor at the School of Industrial Chemistry of the state university.
- Vasco Prado - sculptor.
- Beatriz Bandeira Riff - poetess and journalist.
- Lilia Ripoll - poetess.
- Dr. Marino Tdrigues dos Santos - physician and municipal councilman elected on the Partido Social Progressista (PSP) ticket.
- Eloi Martins da Silva (4) - metallurgist and Porto Alegre municipal councilman elected on the PSP ticket.
- Julio Teiseira (4) - lawyer.

4. In 1949 all public PCB activities in Porto Alegre were sponsored by the Centro. In May 1950 it sponsored a Labor Day demonstration and was active during the same year tarring walls with the slogan O Petroleo e nosso and distributing propaganda against sending troops to Korea, demanding salary increases, etc. In August 1950 the Centro was associated with the Congress of Peace Partisans held in Porto Alegre, which was sponsored by the PCB. The Centro has been less active during 1951 and did not even sponsor a Labor Day demonstration.

5. The PCB originally planned to establish CEDPEN branches in the various interior towns of the state. Several branches were set up, but the program met with very little success. A Centro was founded in Santa Maria, a key railroad center, where some 15,000 railroad workers are located. At first, large numbers of people joined the organization in good faith, but in 1948, when it became apparent that the Centro was primarily a Communist organization, its president, Dr. Mario Mondino, publicly denounced the organization, after which the Santa Maria Centro collapsed.

6. Another Centro was founded in the rural area around Santo Angelo, a missionary region in the interior of the state, the former headquarters of Luiz Carlos Prestes' regiment, and the starting point of the famous Prestes Column. Leaders of this Centro planned to increase the organization's membership by recruiting rural workers and former members of the Prestes Column. For a time, their program met with success, and three Ligas Camponesas (Rural Leagues) were founded, each composed of from 20 to 30 agricultural workers who were given doctrinary and organizational training by the PCB. These Ligas continued to develop until December 1949, at which time it was learned that the Communists planned to expropriate the landowners' property in Santo Angelo and the surrounding area. This brought about intervention by the state police, who arrested the Centro's principal leaders, impounded its files, and disbanded the organization.

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Comments.

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- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

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(5) The PCB State Committee and various Communist-front organizations use this building for a meeting place also.

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