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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Nicaragua	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Nicaraguans Arrested for Complicity in Demonstrations in Nicaragua Since 23 July 1959	DATE DISTR.	3 August 1959
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BY CABLE
FIELD REPORT NO.

1. The following Nicaraguans were charged by the Nicaraguan Government as leaders of the student uprising on 23 July and the burning of the house and car of Major Anastasio ORTIZ, Leon police chief, on 27 July 1959: Roberto ZAMORRO Suazo, leader of the group that burned the house; Juan SANDOVAL, Ramiro ROQUE, Rogoberto PALMA, Luis Angel BERRIOS, Denis MARTINEZ Cabezas, and Salvador GUADAMUZ.¹ The police are planning an early arrest of the leaders.
2. The following Nicaraguans were arrested on 25 July for complicity in the student uprising in Leon and the unsuccessful attempt to cause a student uprising in Managua on 25 July 1959: Rolando SANDINO Avendano, Adolfo MUNIZ Otero, and Ricardo ARQUELLO Penalba.²
3. Between 23 and 26 July Orlando QUINONEZ and Rolando SANDINO Avendano were arrested for distributing Ecos, a pamphlet condemning the Nicaraguan Government for killing Nicaraguan students. The president of the Centro Universitario is protesting these arrests in an effort to obtain release of the prisoners.
4. The Centro Universitario cancelled classes for eight days, and the majority of the students returned to their homes. Those remaining planned to join the townspeople to continue with tactics designed to embarrass the government, such as holding masses and reciting the rosary in churches and then going into the streets. Police warned citizens on 29 July that no public demonstrations or large gatherings would be permitted. 3, 4

Comments

1. ZAMORRO is a prominent pro-Communist; SANDOVAL is a Communist who is secretary of the Communist-dominated Reconstruction Union, in Leon; ROQUE is a labor leader; PALMA also is a member of the

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Reconstruction Union in Leon and is said to have been a cell leader in the Party in 1958; MARTINEZ is a Communist student representative to the University Board of Directors; GUADAMUZ, a leftist anti-government man, is a former president of the Centro Universitario.

2. MUNIZ is a Communist who was an advisor to the now defunct Juventud Democratica Nicaraguense, a Communist-dominated revolutionary group. There is no indication that, initially, the Leon demonstration was Communist-inspired; however, the fact must not be discounted that, once an act of violence occurred, pro-Communists attempted, and are still continuing to attempt, to exploit the situation. The political background of those arrested and those about to be arrested, coupled with interrogations of these persons, could confirm the government's charge that the demonstrations were Communist-inspired.
3. Comment. A recitation of the Rosary at Mercedes Church in Leon has been called for on 31 July 1959, with plans to go into the streets in a body afterward.
4. Comment. If the plans are carried out they could set the stage for a serious untoward incident.