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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Peru  
 SUBJECT Activities of Dissident Apristas

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 DATE OF INFO. June 1950

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1. It is reported that the congress of dissident Apristas which convened in Lima on 22 June 1950 was organized and financed by the government at a cost of 200,000 soles to the government. The authorities reportedly hoped to spread confusion among the APRA masses and to organize a brigade of traitors who would help the police capture the leaders of the APRA underground who are still in hiding. [ ] the congress was held at the home of David Tejada, a former Aprista, with the full knowledge and "protection" of the police, although press accounts of the congress have implied that it was a secret meeting.
2. The congress was allegedly attended by 46 delegates representing dissident Apristas in various parts of the country. Magda Portal, the well-known Aprista woman leader who turned against Haya's leadership some months ago, presided and the directive group included Celso Becerra, Uldarico Gutierrez, and Juan Razetto. All of these have occupied offices of one kind or another in APRA in the past few years.
3. The organizers of the congress were said to be promoting it for a number of reasons, the most important of which were the following:
  - a. The leadership of the party no longer was representative of the Aprista masses nor was it proceeding in accord with the party's best interests.
  - b. As a repudiation of the "pact" between APRA's leaders and the political forces supporting General Ernesto Montagna who had in years past been responsible for the killing and imprisonment of numerous Apristas.
  - c. Because command of the party should not rest with Victor Haya de la Torre's chosen clique but with those who really know the feelings and best interests of the party's members.
  - d. Because the original aims and principles of the party had been completely twisted and betrayed.
  - e. Because the concept of an "international" APRA is false and yet this factor is the one that keeps the party from participating in free and

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responsible civic activities.

4. The congress remained in session through 27 June 1950 debating the various grievances against Haya and the party leadership, and attempted to make clear that the dissident Apristas were strictly independent politically. A resolution declaring the group's absolute political independence was approved unanimously. This line was carried through in the severe censuring of the government authorities for the killing of civilians in the Arequipa uprising. An investigation and punishment of the guilty authorities was suggested, but no formal action was taken.
5. A second motion approved unanimously, and one which has been seized upon by the pro-Odria press, summons Haya to assume personal responsibility for statements he made on 24 and 31 December 1948, allegedly before witnesses, to the effect that, "Alfredo Tello, the Defense Command, and the Youth Command (of APRA) sold themselves to Russian gold and executed with this inspiration the assassination of Francisco Grana Garland, and the revolutionary movement of 3 October, Luis Rose Ugarte having served as agent."
6. Before adjourning the congress also approved the following declarations:
  - a. Haya de la Torre is a traitor, mercenary, and sold to Yankee imperialism.
  - b. The APRA party, as such, is declared dissolved.
7. At its closing session the congress also agreed that the members of the congress would constitute themselves as a "National Permanent Convention" to organize a new "Partido Revolucionario."
8. [ (b)(1) (b)(3) ] names the following as the dissident leaders who have sold out to the government: Magda Portal, Hornan Boggio, Julio Cardenas, Humberto Valdivia, Alfredo Hernandez Urbina, Julio Luzquinos, Celso Becerra, Santiago Torres Solari, Manuel Capunay, N. Mestas, and Napoleon Tello. It will be noted that of this group only Magda Portal and Becerra appear on the directive committee of the congress.
9. [ (b)(1) (b)(3) ] In the past the clandestine Aprista press has frequently attacked Portal, Boggio, and Valdivia, and [ ] these and other individuals have divulged much information and party secrets to the police which resulted in serious damage to the party underground.
10. [ (b)(3) ] APRA members loyal to Haya discount the importance of the dissident Apristas and of the congress they have just held. Pro-Haya members admit that there has been dissension in Aprista ranks, and point out that it has been a tactic of the junta government for some time to attempt to split APRA and thus ultimately destroy it. The dissidents and the pro-Odria press attempt to give the impression that the dissidents are in the majority and that the Hayaistas are a small faction of terrorists and gangsters.

[ (b)(3) ] Comment. Even overt information on which the extent of the split could be assessed is contradictory. The following facts favor the claims of the dissidents:

  - a. In the 2 July elections Odria obtained a far greater percentage of votes than was expected, indicating that many Apristas did not vote blank as they were instructed to do.
  - b. Despite the considerable efforts of the party underground to foment a general strike and force a postponement of the elections, they were unsuccessful. The underground had distributed many pamphlets directed at student and labor groups, and at the military, calling for a general strike. The government's contention that the APRA underground actually planned to set fire to the headquarters of the national electoral board in Lima and to attack the Colombian Embassy has not been confirmed.

Supporting the claim of the Apristas loyal to Haya are the following facts:

  - a. Both prior to and since the elections the government has stepped up its

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anti-APRA propaganda and has made numerous additional arrests of Apristas, indicating that the government still has considerable fear of Haya's group.

- b. Haya's underground group continues to publish a large volume of propaganda clandestinely, whereas the dissidents have been completely silent until the holding of the recent congress.