

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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2003

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DISPATCH NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASSIFICATION

~~C~~ 7-15

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TO

11 June 1954

FROM Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: ~~GENERAL~~ (JMWATERFALL)  
SPECIFIC

Strike Committee Members

Reference: Iden A of C 7029.

1. Attached is a memorandum listing the members of the first four major groups controlling the strikers in the United Fruit Company area of the North Coast of Honduras. It was obtained from press sources.

2. Also attached is a memorandum from KNOX of 9 June, concerning which he comments: Source travelled to Tegucigalpa 4 June and returned to San Pedro Sula 8 June. Prior to trip he repeatedly stated the Government would take action against the Communists who are behind the strike and who hope to establish a Communist government. Upon his return, he stated the communist influence in the strike had been broken. While the Government plans arresting some of the leaders one by one at various times and places, no concerted action is planned. He delivered a long tirade against the fruit company stating the Company is trying to classify the strike movement as communist to avoid meeting legitimate demands of the workers. He admitted many rumors that some of the members of present committee are communists but emphasized that these rumors completely unfounded. He wanted to make this very clear. Whether he had instructions to voice this opinion LAMANSKI and KNOX unable to state at this time.

3. Copies of attachments and summary of above made available to Embassy and Military Attache.

Attachments-2

Hqs-3  
Lincoln-2  
C 71  
File-2

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19 JUN 1954

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MEMBERS OF STRIKE COMMITTEES  
HONDURAS MAY&JUNE

I. Secretariado Supremo de la Huelga (about 5 May)

Sec Gen	Manuel de J. VALENCIA B.
Conflictos	Cesar Augusto COTO U.
Finanzas	Carlos GRAVINA Turcios
Org.	Miguel Angel RUIZ
Actas	Mario TAMAYO
Relaciones	Arturo Rivera Santamaria
Prop.	Jose CUBAS Gross

II. Signers of 30 Points (about 11 May)

Puerto Cortes	Juan B. CANALES
La Lima	C. A. COTO
El Progreso	S. Lilio PINEDA M.
Tela	Luis B. YANES

III. COTO Committee (about 17 May)

Sec Gen	C. A. COTO
Sec. Finanzas	Francisco RIOS
Sec Org	Juan B. Canales
Sec Press/Prop	Marcos SANTOS
Sec Actas	Guillermo ROSALES Mejia
Secs Adjuntos	Manuel SIERRA
	Jose VAZQUEZ
	Adan POSAS
	Cruz MELENDEZ
	Gabriel DAVID
	Ernesto PEREZ
	Angel M. DOMINGUEZ
	Antonio RIVAS
	Gregorio FERRERA
	Augusto CASTANEDA

IV. VALENCIA Committee (about 20 May)

Sec. Gen de Huelga	Manuel de J. VALENCIA
Actas	Mario S. TAMAYO
Prop	Jose CUBAS Gross
Relaciones	Arturo RIVERA Santamaria
Finanzas	Carlos GRAVINA Gureios
Coordinacion	Severino ALVAREZ
Organizacion	Miguel Angel RUIZ

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COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN STRIKE OF UNITED FRUIT  
COMPANY WORKERS

1. The following Central Strike Committee was formally organized in Puerto Cortes on 6 June 1954:

Manuel J. Valencia, La Lima; Humberto Diaz Zelaya, La Lima; Antonio Radillo, Puerto Cortes; Raul Estrada, Tela; Henry Sheran, Tela; Santos Ochoa, Bataan; Benigno Gonzalez, Progreso, ~~Puerto Cortes~~; Carlos Ramirez R.; Puerto Cortes; Rafael Alberti, Tela; Rufino Sosa, Bataan; Israel Orellana, Bataan; Jose Roberto Panchame, Progreso and Jose Arnulfo Espinoza, Progreso. Jose Cubas Gross, La Lima; Celeo Gonzalez, Puerto Cortes.

2. None of the members of this Central Strike Committee are Communists. They have agreed with the authorities that if the Communists attempt to regain control of the Strike Committee or to wreck negotiations they will turn these Communists over to the authorities for detention.

3. As a result of the foregoing, the plan of the Communists to prolong the strike for their own ends has been thwarted. Some of the Communist leaders have fled to Guatemala while others are in hiding. A few of the Communist leaders remain in Progreso, but they have no influence in the present Central Strike Committee.

Evaluation F-3

Date above report received from source: 9 June 1954.

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