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SUBJECT Leading Figures in Costa Rican Junta

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1. Fernando Valverde Vega (Minister of Interior) is a businessman, part owner of the Libreria Espanola and brother of the late Dr. Carlos Luis Valverde Vega, a hero of the revolution. At one time Valverde and his brother Carlos Luis gladly did printing work for Vanguardia Popular (VP), but once the VP took their printing contract elsewhere, the Valverde brothers became bitter enemies of the Party and especially of Carlos Luis Fallas, former VP deputy who apparently was responsible for the break in relations.
2. Alberto Marten Chavarria (Minister of Economy, Treasury and Commerce) is a bright but erratic student of economics who leans strongly toward some brand of French Socialism. Marten is extremely nationalistic, very anti-U.S., and eager to rid Costa Rica of American-controlled business if this is financially possible. Marten wields a great influence in the Figueres Government, probably because of the proximity of his and Figueres' social views.
3. Professor Vladislao Gamez Solano (Minister of Education) is the mild professorial type, a sincere man who was formerly head of the Workers' School in Heredia and who cooperated closely with the Rerum Novarum.
4. Licentiate Benjamin Odio Odio (Minister of Foreign Affairs) is the person who became the target of the Calderonistas after the defeat of Dr. Calderon. Odio had been in charge of the Electoral Register, which according to Dr. Calderon was controlled in such a manner as to bring about Ulate's electoral triumph fraudulently. Odio fought with Figueres' forces in the revolution, is something of a mystic, and a man with no experience suitable as background for his present assignment.

[] Odio and his wife have made reservations to leave Cristobal, Canal Zone, on 13 July 1948 for New Orleans. [] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

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Odio may have played on both sides during his period as chief of the Electoral Register and may soon be replaced in the Cabinet. It is doubted that Odio did cooperate with Dr. Calderon, but there may be other reasons for his possible removal from Figueres' Cabinet. Odio has been drinking heavily, and it is known that Figueres, almost a teetotaler, does not approve.

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5. Francisco Jose Orlich Bolmarich (Minister of Public Works) is of Yugoslav antecedents, openly fought the Picado Government, took part in terroristic campaigns, fought with Figueres' forces, and owes his position to his long-time opposition to the Dr. Calderon-Picado regimes.
6. Padre Benjamin Nunez Vargas (Minister of Labor and Social Welfare) was formerly president of the Rerum Novarum, Catholic-sponsored labor organization. Nunez is sincerely devoted to the betterment of labor and believes this can be achieved without the help of Communism. Nunez, like others of the Junta Cabinet, may nevertheless be politically fixed as slightly left of center. He is in actuality too young and inexperienced for his present assignment, but may compensate by dogged persistence. He also fought with the forces of Figueres.
7. Gonzalo Facio Segreda (Minister of Justice and Pardon) is a pleasant young man whose political sentiments are hard to define at the moment. He is too young and inexperienced for his present position.
8. Edgar Cardona Cooper (Minister of Public Security) played an active part in terroristic campaigns against the government of Picado, drinks heavily, is quarrelsome, and is considered the least likely Cabinet member to succeed. [redacted] temptations of his present office will be too much for him and that he may be the first of this group to begin the well known Latin pay-off system. He also fought on Figueres' side. (b)(1) (b)(3)
9. Renato Delcore Alvarado is Military Attache to the Costa Rican Embassy in Washington. Delcore is of Italian extraction and is the son of Rafael Delcore, whose business reputation is extremely shady. The father was placed on the first U. S. Proclaimed List on 17 July 1941. Renato assisted his father in his business. [redacted] Mario Esquivel, new Ambassador to Washington, upon receiving word of Delcore's assignment to the Costa Rican Embassy, contacted Figueres to express his disapproval of the appointment and to add that hereafter he would appreciate being advised before any new person was assigned his Embassy. (b)(1) (b)(3)
10. Guillermo Von Breyman Figueroa is a major in the Costa Rican Army with title of Inspector General of Arms. Von Breyman was one of Costa Rica's most vociferous and dangerous Nazis, who because of his activities was finally detained, deported to the United States, and held in a detention camp. Von Breyman is a competent ordnance man and previous to the war was the Mauser representative and salesman in Central America.

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