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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Reaction of CTC to Venezuelan Coup

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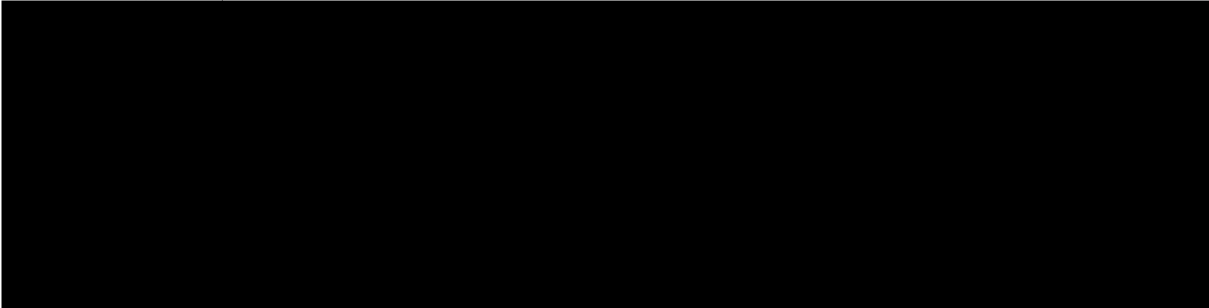
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. During a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC) the current labor situation in Venezuela was discussed. Pedro J. Abella, Secretary-General, stated that he had known for some time that the Venezuelan labor movement was divided. He had obtained his information from a report submitted by Jaime Rubio after his return from the Petroleum Congress held in Tampico, Mexico, in September. Antonio Garcia Salazar, Secretary-General of the Venezuelan Confederation of Petroleum Workers, had advised Rubio that a serious split existed in the Venezuelan labor movement as a result of intrigues instigated by foreign oil companies.
2. Abella stated that no particular significance was attached to the information at that time, but in the light of later developments it proved to be extremely important. As a result of the workers not being united, the recent military coup was made much easier. Abella stated that he felt personally responsible for not having fostered closer relations between the CTC and the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers. He believed that the Colombian labor leaders might have been able to solve some of the differences among the Venezuelan workers.
3. The CTC is desirous of helping the Venezuelan unions if at all possible, but is prohibited by law from intervening directly in such matters. As a result, Abella, Carlos Arturo Aguirre, and Victor Julio Lerohan have persuaded the leaders of the Movimiento Popular Liberal (MPL) to organize a group of Colombian workers to be known as the "Legion Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Pro-Liberacion de Venezuela". The Legion will include all workers who wish to aid the Venezuelan laborers' cause in the event of open resistance and civil war between the laborers and the present military government in that country.

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