

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT Split in Guatemalan Organized Labor

PLACE ACQUIRED

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SOURCE

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1. The prospect of reconciling the split in the ranks of organized labor in Guatemala seems remote. In fact, according to source the rift seems to be widening. Ever since the resignations of Jose Manuel Fortury and Victor Manuel Gutierrez from the Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR) on 1 June, and the announcement of the formation of the new organization Partido Revolucionario Obrero de Guatemala (PROG), there has been a continuous jockeying for position. Also, the split seems to have divided the Federacion Sindical de Guatemala (FSG) and the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CTG).
2. Manuel Pinto Usaga, Secretary General of the FSG, has been cautiously weighing the situation to determine what would be the best course of action for him. Source said that there are some indications now that Pinto Usaga, the FSG and the National Workers Political Committee are working closely with PAR in an effort to help Fortury and Gutierrez in and see that their new political party, PROG, does not gain any great popular support. Since the PROG leadership is almost entirely CTG in character, this means that PAR and Pinto Usaga will also probably direct their attack against the CTG. Source pointed out, however, that so far Pinto Usaga does not seem to have taken a strong stand against the CTG and that most of the opposition is coming from PAR.
3. On 17 June 1950 a resolution of PAR was published in the newspapers which stated that PAR was going to give its complete aid and support to the new Confederacion Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG). This organization was founded in May, 1950, and was immediately criticized by Gutierrez as being a completely unnecessary organization which was duplicating the work of the CTG.
4. On 21 June 1950 the CNCG published a statement in the newspapers strongly criticizing the CTG for having sent a bulletin to an organization in Chiquimula called the Federacion Campesina del Departamento de Chiquimula, in which the CTG warned that organization that it should beware of traitors and opportunists. The declaration of the CNCG said that the CTG had not been responsible for founding the above-mentioned organization in Chiquimula and that the CTG had no authority to tell that organization what to do.

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5. Source talked with Victor Manuel Gutierrez on 21 June 1950 and found him in a discouraged state of mind. Gutierrez said that he and the CTG were facing the hardest fight they had seen since the CTG was organized in 1944. He stated that the CTG and PROG now found themselves without the aid of President Arevalo and of the PAR. He said that the CNCG was trying to invade its ranks and that it now began to appear that Pinto Usaga was going to use his influence against them. Gutierrez stated that Pinto Usaga had a stronger labor organization at his command than the CTG. He pointed out that the FSG has wealthier and better organized unions in general than does the CTG.
  
6. Gutierrez pointed out that his manifesto addressed to the Federacion Campesina del Departamento de Chiquimula had not been printed in any of the pro-government newspapers although he had requested them to publish it. He said, however, that the reply of the CNCG to his manifesto was carried in all the pro-government newspapers.

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