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INFORMATION REPORT

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(LISTED BELOW)

(b)(3) []
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Panama

SUBJECT Demand for Pacific Corridor Through Canal Zone

PLACE ACQUIRED []

DATE OF INFO. June 1950 (b)(3)

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SOURCE []

(b)(1) (b)(3)

- Demetrio Porras, President of the Socialist Party of Panama and one of the founders of the original Communist Party, is reported to be heading a movement to demand a corridor through the Canal Zone on the Pacific side and the abolition of Canal Zone license plates. The belief that this is part of an organized attempt to discredit the United States was confirmed by the continuous campaign in La Hora, leftist and anti-U.S. paper, and by the endorsement of the movement by such organizations as La Asocacion de al Escuela Normal Juan Demostenes Arosemana and La Federacion de Sociedades Santenas, as well as by Celso Solano, Secretary General of the Partido del Pueblo.
- As a result of Porras' agitation for a corridor, it was agreed that drivers from the Interior would be permitted to pass through the Canal Zone without Zone tags. This apparently did not satisfy Porras and his followers.
- It appears probable that there has been some pressure placed upon Porras' group from the Panamanian government since a mass meeting sponsored by the Federation of Santenas Societies on 2 June was cancelled "because of the grave danger facing the peace of the world." The Society also felt that such a meeting might be interpreted as an act unfriendly to the United States. However, it plans to continue to press the demand for the corridor.

Approved for Release
Date ~~1950 01 1000~~

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