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BUNDY SMITH

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- On 13 April 1964 Manuel Canteros Prado, secretary of organization of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), while speaking to a group of Communist leaders said that since the election of Curico, the possibility of the electoral triumph of the popular movement had greatly increased. The campaign movement of Salvador Allende Gossens, leftist candidate for President, has grown more than that of the reactionary forces, he said, and the imperialists are now doing all that they can to prevent Allende from winning the election.
- The victory in Curico has brought about a new correlation of forces; people are no longer restricted by the boundaries of their party. The enemy, he said, is trying to regroup its forces around Eduardo Frei Montalva, presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). However, it is difficult for Frei to accept direct aid from the right, he said, because there are disagreements within the PDC over the matter. There are also differences of opinion among members of the PDC on the nationalization of the copper industries. The PDC wants the votes of the right, but it does not want an open alliance, Canteros said.
- There are some Chilean rightists as well as persons from the American Embassy who believe that it is not possible to defeat Allende by electoral means, Canteros went on, thus they have proposed a military coup d'etat. They believe it is hazardous to allow the present electoral situation to continue and believe that a military coup before 4 September would enable them to hold

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EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)-25
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EO 12958
3.4(b)(6)-2
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the election later on at a time that would be more advantageous to them. They are also considering what could be called a constitutional coup d'etat - if it happens that Allende gets a plurality but not a majority of the votes, they plan to have congress vote for the candidate in second place. The leftist forces cannot permit the snatching away of Allende's victory. Neither will they seek support from opposition groups in congress by promising them positions in the future government or by agreeing to delete anti-imperialistic points from their program.

4. The technique for revolution used in Brazil is being applied in Chile, Canteros went on. It consists mainly of convincing the people that a coup d'etat is inevitable, thereby creating an atmosphere conducive to revolution. Carefully planned coups, preceded by psychological preparation of the people, have replaced the simple ones where after a secret nighttime meeting, military officers seized the government in the morning. This is why the Party has no concrete proof of any meetings being held by the military. However, the Party has observed the measures being taken to create the conditions for a coup. First, there are anti-Communist statements. An employee of the American Embassy has said that it is not Allende but the participation of the PCCh in his government that the White House will not accept. Secondly, fear is being instilled into the people. Thirdly, there is deliberate maligning of the plans of the FRAP.¹ Calumnies about its program for a popular government are being circulated, especially on economic matters. People are becoming panicky; they are sending money out of the country and making reservations to leave. Lastly, fascist bands are being created. The ultra revolutionaries are uniting and are becoming more audacious, Canteros said.
5. It would be fatal if the Party allowed itself to panic, but it would be dangerous to think that there is no threat of a coup, Canteros said. The opposition forces try to show that one could not occur in Chile, hoping that they can, in this way, lull the left into taking no counter measures. However, the Political Commission considers it imperative to inform the Party that it should be prepared for a coup. The PCCh can count on help from other forces in counteracting one, he went on. There is a portion of the PDC that would be against a coup, and leaders such as Rafael Agustin Gumucio Vives, deputy of the PDC, have said they would unite with the PCCh if one were imminent. There is also a group in the Radical Party whose help the PCCh can count on, Canteros said.
6. The Party must alert the mass organizations, the labor unions, the people in worker developments, and all the members of the Allende movement so that, if there is a coup in Chile, the popular forces can paralyze production and go to the streets. A large movement made up of workers would be created rapidly, he said.
7. According to Canteros the Party will work harder in the presidential campaign. It will work to have Allende receive an absolute majority of the votes. At the same time the Party will work to oppose a coup. If there is a need to become clandestine, the Party will do so rapidly, not to hide but to fight better. The organization of self-defense groups is of great importance among the workers as well as among the members of the Party, he said. The groups will be prepared to take the offensive when it becomes necessary.
8. Communists are revolutionaries, and as such, will not be intimidated. The Communists will take care of defending the Party, he concluded.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: Frente de Accion Popular, Marxist political coalition.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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