



"In the present conditions it is the most proper revolutionary path for the liquidation of the great feudal holdings of the country." Later on in his report, Fortuny stated that "the Communist Party is not fighting now for the transfer of power to the proletariat, but, considering historic conditions and given these conditions, it must support whatever steps may lead to the final liquidation of feudalism."

- B-3 5. Communist Party organization among rural communities should be undertaken with full realization of the rural social structure, the article pointed out, and attention should be directed principally to the rural proletariat, farmers who had to hire themselves out for supplementary income, and to poor peasants, but care should be taken to distinguish between the rich peasants who did manual labor on their own land and the large farmers and great landowners who did not.
- B-3 6. There is no precise information concerning the line the Party expects to take at any future time with regard to agrarian reform. For the present it is endeavoring to improve and, apparently, establish itself soundly as the friend and leader of the farmers. The Indian farmers are difficult to change in their ways. They are religious, and this factor is the greatest obstacle in the path of the Communists, although the Communists will endeavor to dispel any fears by claiming that the Party "respects" religion.
- B-3 7. In his efforts to win the support of the farm workers, Fortuny criticized the ineffective efforts of the past and called for the Communist cells, agitators, and propagandists to stay in as close contact as possible with the peasants, recruiting those who are the most aggressive and audacious. He mentioned that the Political Committee of the Party had approved the creation of a group of propagandists and agitators to go into the countryside and stated that in areas where Spanish is not spoken they must be accompanied by interpreters.
- B-3 8. Fortuny stated that the agitators and organizers should not lose sight of the fact that the struggle for "peace" was the Party's permanent central task, by reason of the fact that if international conditions became worse, to the point of war, agrarian reform would become so difficult it would be impossible to realize for a long period.
- B-3 9. There has been no confirmation received that an organized campaign is being, or has been, undertaken by any group to create an atmosphere of anxiety among the farm workers in order to defeat the purposes of the Agrarian Reform Law. The law provides penalties for acts in opposition to its enforcement. However, the landowners' interests are such that they would by nature use whatever psychological technique they thought would be effective in influencing the farm workers on their own farms to oppose agrarian reform.
- B-3 10. The opinion that the Agrarian Reform Law was created to keep German expropriated farms as "national" property has become generally accepted, but it also seems to be accepted that this law will serve as a tool to punish non-sympathizers of the Arbenz government. According to a Dr. Salvador Ortega, formerly connected with the military hospital in Guatemala City and who is acquainted with a number of military men, they believe the agrarian law will die a natural death and cannot be applied to existing conditions in Guatemala.

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which probably have some essence of truth, indicating that the administrators of the new law will not apply it to persons who support the government, and that landowners who have been enemies of the government can bribe the administrators or sell their land to persons friendly to the government who will then be in a position to protect it from division and distribution to the farm workers. The law appears to open the way for extensive graft.

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