

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Chile	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Expansion of Chilean Communist Press	DATE DISTR.	17 February 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

1. In conjunction with efforts of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) to increase its propaganda activities, PCCh leaders intend to revive the following newspapers which were shut down prior to or at the time the PCCh was forced underground in 1948: El Despertar de los Trabajadores, in Iquique; El Coquimbo in Coquimbo; and El Siglo, in Concepcion. A new, as yet unnamed, Communist newspaper for the Punta Arenas region of Chile, in the extreme southern zone will be inaugurated. El Despertar de los Trabajadores has already resumed publication on a limited scale and will serve as the Communist organ for northern Chile. El Coquimbo will be published in Coquimbo and distributed throughout the so-called "Norte Chico" zone of north-central Chile. El Siglo of Concepcion will cover the south-central zone.
2. On 10 January 1953 El Siglo correspondents met at El Siglo offices in Santiago to discuss administrative changes. The meeting was publicized by El Siglo and is the second such meeting to take place in recent weeks. Victor CONTRERAS Tapia was named chief of all El Siglo correspondents and has since departed for northern Chile, where he will hold similar gatherings in Antofagasta, Iquique, and Arica, which are designed to improve news coverage in those areas. CONTRERAS, at one time a leading PCCh leader, has been extremely ill during the past few years, suffering from low blood pressure and overweight. The northern trip marks his return to active Party status.
3. Among the most recent additions to the growing list of Communist publications in Chile are a 204-page Spanish edition of MAO Tse-Tung's La Nueva Democracia, a history of the Chinese revolution, and a fourteen-page history of the Chilean Communist labor movement, taken from the writings of Luis Emilio RECABARREN. Both were published in Santiago.
4. It has been determined that the monthly magazine Unidad, of the employees of the Caja de Seguro Obligatorio in Santiago, is edited by Communist Alfonso RAMOS, a former El Siglo writer, and follows the PCCh political line. While not the official publication of the Caja de Seguro Obligatorio employees,

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X", Field Distribution by "#")

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Unidad is advertised as such by El Siglo and has a circulation of 2,000 copies.

5. In discussing the discovery of large quantities of Communist propaganda in the ruins of the disastrous Valparaiso fire and explosion of 1 January 1953, the following information regarding the handling of Communist propaganda bundles arriving in Chilean ports has been reported: Incoming bundles are thrown by Communist crew members of the carrier ship to marked tugboats during landing operations. They are hidden in the tugs until after the carrier ship has departed, at which time they are unloaded in water-front shacks, to be picked up by vehicles of the Departamento de Obras Publicas (Public Works Department). These vehicles in turn carry the material to specified railroad and highway department warehouses, and from there regular distribution is effected.

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