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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Jose MARMOL Diaz, secretary-general of the Cuban National Committee of the Agrupacion de Trabajadores Latinoamericanos Sindicalistas (ATLAS), was re-elected secretary-general of the Federacion Bancaria Nacional (FBN, Cuban National Bankers' Federation) for Las Villas Province, Cuba, on 20 December 1953.
2. A few days prior to the election the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) obtained permission from the Cuban Ministry of Labor to designate an election supervisor who would be used to defeat MARMOL. On election day an armed group from the CTC went to Santa Clara, Las Villas Province, with the intention of forcibly backing one VAZQUEZ (fnu), a bank employee and CTC candidate for the position of secretary-general. MARMOL, however, took counter-action by calling high Cuban Government officials to take measures to insure an honest election. This was guaranteed by Evaristo MARINAS, Director of Public Order, and Raul LORENZO Ruiz, Cuban Minister of Commerce. Consequently, the authorities of Santa Clara were alerted, and as a result there was no violence or fraud. MARMOL was re-elected by 141 votes to 112.
3. In the FBN elections held in Habana the ATLAS candidate, Aurelio RAMOS, organization secretary of the Cuban National Committee of ATLAS, lost by more than 200 votes. Cesar TRONCONI, former Argentine Labor Attache in Cuba, complained that RAMOS never should have become involved in such a futile attempt. Aside from the loss of ATLAS prestige, TRONCONI stated that much money had been wasted on the elections, and that it would have been better to give it to Sra. FERNANDEZ de Batista, wife of the Cuban President, to buy toys for the poor children at Christmas time. Such a move at least would have demonstrated the altruism and high purpose of ATLAS. TRONCONI has always insisted that ATLAS should maintain good relations with the Cuban Government and even offer publicity in the official newspaper to the deeds of the First Lady and to the government's public works program. However, the leadership of ATLAS is approximately four-fifths opposed to the Cuban Government, and so it is most unlikely that this type of support will ever be given.

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