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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Brazil

DATE:

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SUBJECT Communist Activities in Sao Paulo

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2000

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1. At the present time the attitude of the Partido Comunista Brasileiro (Communist Party of Brazil; PCB) in the city and State of Sao Paulo continues to be that of watchful waiting. The delay in closing the Party as a civil society has given the Party some hope that it may be able to maintain some part of its legal existence, and it is, therefore, apparently avoiding giving the government a pretext for repressive measures.
2. Party leaders are not preparing any substantial movement at this time as they are fully aware that any such attempts would meet with failure because of the close surveillance by the police and the army. Consequently, the Party has decided to await a more favorable opportunity. In spite of this, however, the PCB is maintaining an extremely alert attitude and keeping close track of all political developments. All contacts are kept active and PCB members report fully on the activities of other political parties and leading political and police figures in Sao Paulo. The "Querenistas" (followers of Vargas) are reported to be friendly with the Communists.
3. In order to keep its members in touch with the decisions and desires of the local and national Party governing bodies, a number of neighborhood commissions have been formed to maintain the necessary liaison. Each commission has three members and has jurisdiction over two or three city blocks; some neighborhoods or districts have as many as thirty commissions. This Commission plan was put into effect on 7 July 1947. During the past month all echelons of the PCB in Sao Paulo have been holding clandestine meetings at various members' residences.
4. According to source, recent orders to Sao Paulo from headquarters of the PCB in Rio de Janeiro include the following:
 - a. To intensify the propaganda campaign by word of mouth at all places where three or more people are gathered;
 - b. To refrain from extending any support whatsoever to the State government, but maintain a state of neutrality with respect to Governor Adhemar de Barros until final orders come from Rio;
 - c. To organize a surveillance of all political police officers engaged in anti-Communist service;
 - d. To acquire arms and hide them in safe places, preferably the residences of non-Communist friends;

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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- e. To search for suitable houses or offices to rent.

Partido Popular Progressista

5. Despite orders that the PCB prepare to resume activities in the event the appeal of the decision of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is successful or its mandate as a civil society is not revoked, Prestes is attempting to organize a new party in Sao Paulo and to register it legally. PCB members are devoting a great deal of attention to the development of this Partido Popular Progressista. Although the membership is predominantly Communist they have been successful in attracting a considerable number of non-Communists. This policy has been followed as a part of the orders which direct the PCB to present a front which will convince the police and the public that the Partido Popular Progressista is not the PCB reorganized.

Liga Paulista de Politisacao Popular

6. PCB leaders in Sao Paulo are working on the organization of the Liga Paulista de Politisacao Popular (LPPP). The statutes have not yet been drawn up, but the PCB intends to open headquarters in all districts of the city in much the same manner as the extinct Communist-dominated Democratic Committees. Outstanding in this work are Brito Branco, Elias Charnas, Jose Petrillo, Mario Barbosa da Silva, Miguel Tadeo, and Antonio Aquilino de Freitas, the last three being militant Communists who in 1946 were active in the organization of the now illegal Communist peasant leagues (Ligas Camponesas). Sao Paulo Political Police are watching the development of the LPPP.

Labor

7. Communist agitators are reportedly working to prepare the ground for a series of strikes to affect transportation and public services, but they are encountering resistance, especially from the Political Police, who are endeavoring to neutralize the efforts of the Communists. Involved are the Sao Paulo Railroad, the Light and Power Company, and the bus company. Communists of Santo Andre, industrial suburb of Sao Paulo, are carrying out a concentrated agitation of workers in that district.
8. Several non-Communists are at present circulating a petition for signatures, denouncing the directorate of the Communist-dominated Santos-Jundiai Railroad Union. This will be sent to the Minister of Labor. The Union has been collecting strike funds for the relief of striking employees of the Sao Paulo-Goiias railroad, the funds to be distributed by Hoje, Communist newspaper of Sao Paulo.

Finances

9. The PCB in Sao Paulo is considerably occupied with its financial problems. The National Committee has issued orders for a special campaign to arrange personal loans from all Party leaders and officers. It is alleged that the Party will have heavy obligations to meet in the near future, especially in Rio de Janeiro. An appeal has gone out to all State Committees to assist in raising the necessary funds. The Sao Paulo quota is Cr\$200,000,00 (approximately \$10,000 US). Receipts in the amounts of Cr\$100-250-500 and -1000 will be issued to the respective contributors; the contributions will be returned upon presentation of the receipts if and when the Party finances are re-established. The receipts have no heading and are signed with a pseudonym.

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10. There are circulating in Sao Paulo subscription lists supposedly to raise money to support Hoje, which on 7 June owed Cr\$120.000,00 (about \$6,000 US) to the Jornal de Sao Paulo. The money subscribed will actually be used for other expenses. This campaign falls under the direction of the Central Coordinating Commission of the Movimento de Auxilio a Tribuna Popular, (MATP) organized in Rio de Janeiro (). 25X1A
11. The PCB in Sao Paulo has laid off more than half of its full time employees. A further reduction in the paid staff is expected.

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