

CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATIC ~~SECRET~~ PORT

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1948

SUBJECT Dissension in Liberal Party Ranks

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

DATE OF INFO 25X1X6

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The leftist faction of the Colombian Liberal Party contends that since a member of the conservative faction of the Party, Antonio Ordonez Ceballos, was appointed Comptroller General, Hernan Isaias Ibarra, one of their group, should be elected "Primer Designado" (Vice President). Although the majority of the Liberal Congressional representatives wish to avoid a wider breach within the Party, it is reported to be highly improbable that the conservative faction will permit the election of an extreme leftist such as Ibarra, to this potentially important post. Dr. Eduardo Santos allegedly is fervently marshalling his Congressional adherents to impede the election of Ibarra.
2. Hernando Uribe Cualla, an outstanding Conservative, reportedly stated that the Conservative Congressional minority will vote in favor of the re-election of Santos or any other moderate Liberal opposing Ibarra. The reasons behind this action are two-fold: the Conservatives would naturally oppose the election of an extreme leftist and, secondly, the Conservatives, having a minority in Congress could not hope to elect one of their own candidates. However, they would cast their votes for a moderate Liberal. The Conservatives are hopeful that the election of a moderate Liberal will accentuate the existing differences in the Party and, as a consequence, strengthen the Conservative position.
3. The leaders of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) reportedly are concerned with the above state of affairs and are apprehensive of the strengthening of the conservative faction of the Liberal Party. They view as one indication of this the removal on 18 August 1948 of Alejandro Vallejo as co-director of the Liberal newspaper Jornada, which has urged the Liberal Party to continue the leftist policies advocated by Jorge Gaitan. Another indication brought to their attention was the hint given by ex-President Alfonso Lopez, editor of El Liberal, that it would no longer be convenient for his paper to continue printing Vanguardia del Pueblo, the official organ of the PCC.
4. Pablo Balcazar, recently appointed editor of the Vanguardia del Pueblo, in passing this information along to PCC leaders, stressed the importance of making other arrangements as soon as possible for the printing of the paper. It was agreed to study ways and means for raising funds for this purpose and in this respect to contact Joaquin Tiberio Galves, who is presently living in Caracas and allegedly in close touch with high Venezuelan officials. It is the desire of the PCC leaders to have Tiberio Galves arrange for the sale to the Venezuelan Government of the recently published book Los Delitos Politicos.

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This book was written by the well-known fellow traveller and lawyer, Luis Carlos Perez, and has been well received by the Communists and leftist Liberals in Colombia. Since Colombian Government restrictions on imports and exports prevent the printing and subsequent shipment to Venezuela of copies of this book, arrangements will have to be made to have it printed either in Caracas or by Zigzag Press of Santiago de Chile.

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