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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Uruguay/Spain

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DATE DISTR. 3 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Spanish Communist Activities in Uruguay

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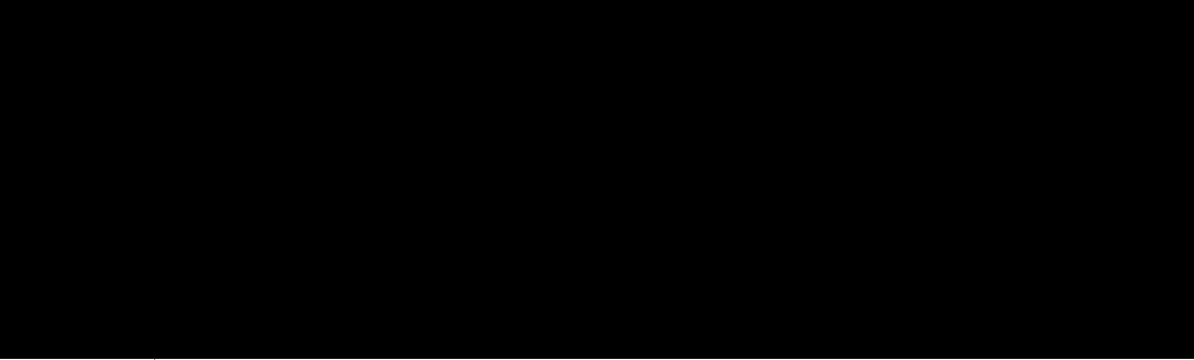
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X6



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1. Spanish Communist leaders at Casa de Espana in Uruguay have recently devoted many hours to the preparation of a local campaign to be based on instructions received from the Political Bureau of the Spanish Communist Party in France.

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Comment. The most recent of these instructions, attached to which was a manifesto to the public in Spain and America, was dated 30 October 1948. The Bureau ordered the intensification of propaganda through labor union publications, radio broadcasts, and democratic organizations.) Venancio Lozoya, the head of the CFS in Uruguay, has been aligning leading Spanish Communist leaders, leaders of Spanish Communist front organizations, and labor leaders to carry out the proposed campaign.

2. The Spanish Communists in Uruguay have displayed great interest and diligence in publishing letters written by young Spaniards living in the Soviet Union. These letters, which have been circulated by Russians, praise the Soviet Union. Source indicated that the USSR has initiated this campaign in an attempt to counteract the damage to its prestige caused by Argentine declarations concerning the "tragedy of Spanish children taken to the USSR".

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3. Shortly after the Communists' assault on the Trocadero theater in Montevideo in a demonstration against "The Iron Curtain" (cf. ^{25X1A2g} a meeting of the directors of Casa de Espana was held, to which Spanish Communist leaders were invited. The directors indicated that members had been previously advised not to hold Spanish Communist meetings at Casa de Espana; however, if such meetings were held, no Uruguayan Communists were to be invited. The Communist members of Casa de Espana were threatened with expulsion for having ignored the latter directive.

4. Venancio Lozoya defended the cause of the Spanish Communists by stating that inasmuch as Casa de Espana is the headquarters for all anti-Franco Spanish groups, it would be unjust to eliminate such an important anti-Franco sector as the Spanish Communists, and that Spanish Communist meetings had been held quietly and dealt only with internal Party matters and anti-Franco activities. After a heated argument, a vote was taken on whether the Spanish Communists should be excluded. The vote was favorable to the Communists, five to two.

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25X1X6 It was decided, however, that Uruguayan Communists are not to attend Spanish Communist meetings in the future and that a director of Casa de Espana is to attend all meetings. ~~Comment.~~ Comment. The fact that no Spanish Communists were proved to be directly involved in the Trocadero incident was a decisive factor in saving the Communists from expulsion.)

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