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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 3 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Proposed Reorganization of the Communist Party of Colombia

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

1. Prior to the 9 April uprising the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) made plans for an extensive reorganization of the Party. As a result of the rioting and subsequent close check maintained by the Government during the state of siege, most of the Party cells remained inactive. However, a "minimum plan of work" for Bogota was drawn up for September, October, and November 1948. The plan called for an increase in membership, particularly among organized workers, an increase in cells and the strengthening of existing cells, and an outline of minimum requirements in education, agitation, propaganda, and finances, etc. The control by the Communist Workers' Party (PCO) of the three largest syndicates in Bogota helped to bring about almost complete failure of the plan.

2. Anticipating the lifting of the state of siege with the closing of the Congress on 20 December 1948, the PCC planned a reorganization of the Party in the principal departmental capitals, with particular stress on Bogota. Jaime Barrios, Filiberto Barrero, and Renato Arango were assigned the task of setting up an effective organizational plan and of putting it into operation. The plan divides Bogota into zones. Each zone will exist as a separate entity with an "action committee" responsible for the activities in the zone.

3. In connection with the proposed reorganization, great importance is attached to the recent appointment of Alvaro Pio Valencia of Popayan as National Secretary of Education. Valencia is considered one of the most intelligent and capable members of the Party, and it is expected that he will assume a great deal of the organizational work involved. It is also believed, [redacted] because of the continued ill health of Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the Party, that Valencia may later occupy that post.

4. In addition, there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction apparent among some Party members with the present Central Executive Committee, and it is possible that the make-up of the Committee may be considerably changed at the VI National Congress of the PCC, now scheduled for July 1949.

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