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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 3 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Views of Carlos Contreras Labarca on Failure of FRAS to Unite with the FND

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1. Carlos Contreras Labarca stated to source that all efforts toward unity between the Frente Nacional Democratico (FND) and the FRAS had failed. He added that there was not sufficient time to rally the anti-government parties into a common front.
2. He made the following comments to source on the cause of this failure and the course of action that the FND is expected to follow in view of the collapse of negotiations:
  - a. This has been the most propitious moment for the formation of a united front; 99% of the people and even anti-Communists are against Gonzalez Videla. There is discontent even in the Carabineros and in the Army. The Communist Party did not capitalize on the discontent because there was too much sectarianism from the beginning. It was already too late when the Party began searching for allies, and even the possible allies had received bad treatment from the Communists.
  - b. Humberto Abarca, who was given the task of uniting various parties within the FND, was not energetic enough and did not handle the problem well. Nothing concrete was done, and there were no meeting places set up in the provinces, and no committees of the FND were established.
  - c. The directors of FRAS were also to blame since they did not perceive the advantages which union with the FND would give them. Now the FND will have to fight alone, and it cannot count on more than 30,000 to 35,000 votes in all of Chile, because the Director of the Electoral Register, Zanartu, barred so many Communists.
3. The only dignified course open to the FND will be to adopt the policy of abstention from voting in the elections. This will indicate to the world that there is a government of tyranny in Chile, and liberty is only an official declaration.

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