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INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Chile **CONFIDENTIAL**

SUBJECT Attempts of the Confederacion General de Trabajadores to Organize New Labor Group

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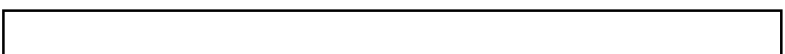
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1. In view of the apparent disintegration of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Chile (CTCh), leaders of the independent Confederacion General de Trabajadores (CGT) are endeavoring to form a new national labor organization to be called Central Unica de Trabajadores de Chile.
  2. On 23 December 1948, fifteen CGT delegates traveled to Valparaiso to meet with labor leaders of the region. Among those with whom contact was established were leaders of both Socialist and Communist labor unions belonging to the CTCh.
  3. The CGT delegates advanced the theory that the time was ripe for the formation of a labor organization which would confine itself strictly to the field of labor and take no active part in politics. Although most of the labor leaders consulted by the CGT delegates agreed that the CTCh is no longer an effective labor organization, no agreement on this question of the legitimate sphere of labor activities could be reached. There was no unity of opinion among the CTCh leaders as to what constituted labor interests as against political activities. The majority of the union leaders believed that only through combining union and political activities can any true progress be obtained by organized Chilean labor.
  4. Many of the CTCh leaders who were approached demanded special advantages for their respective political parties within the framework of the proposed new national labor organization. The CGT representatives refused these demands wherever they arose.
  5. Because of these difficulties in reaching an agreement, the CGT decided to establish coordinating committees in Valparaiso and Santiago which would be responsible for reaching a working agreement with Communist and Socialist union representatives.
  6. It is reported that the CGT has also decided to send out delegates to the northern mining zones to try to attract the powerful mining groups to the proposed new labor organization. The identity of these representatives is not yet known, but it is believed that Pedro Nolasco Arratia Urrutia and Pedro Huiquarir will be included among the delegates.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS.  
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


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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25X1  Comment: It is believed that the attempt of the CGT to form a new national labor organization has only small possibility of succeeding. The CGT has long cooperated with both the Socialist and Communist factions of the CTCCh, but only on matters pertaining strictly to labor. The CGT has never tried to hide its lack of sympathy for the purely political and personally ambitious maneuverings of Socialist and Communist leaders in the CTCCh.

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