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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

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DATE DISTR. 11 Apr 49

SUBJECT Relation of CGT and CTCh, Chilean Labor Organizations

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1. Available information tends to indicate that the previously reported attempts* to arrange an agreement between the Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Chile (CGT) and the Socialist and Communist factions of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Chile (CTCh) have reached an impasse. Certain Communist labor leaders allegedly still have hopes of reaching a working agreement with the CGT leaders, however.
2. A series of meetings has been held by the Chilean Communist labor leaders and CGT officials. The most frequent CTCh Comunista delegates to these meetings have been Benigno Lopez Gonzalez, Guillermo Sanchez Alarcon, and Guillermo Sanchez Muñoz.
3. Benigno Lopez Gonzalez, the director of the Madeco Industrial Syndicate, was eliminated from the electoral rolls by Supreme Decree No. 21243 of 4 January 1949. On 15 January he appealed to the courts and on 28 January 1949 the court decided that he was not a Communist. However, he is a member of the Party and a source of constant difficulty to the Madeco Company.
4. Guillermo Sanchez Alarcon and Guillermo Sanchez Muñoz are also members of the Party. The latter was formerly sub-secretary and recording secretary of the CTCh Comunista.
5. Though agreeing in principle on the necessity of forming a new national labor organization under the tentative name of Central Unica de Trabajadores de Chile, the delegates of the CTCh Comunista and the delegates of the CGT have been unable to reach an agreement because of the CGT refusal to permit any Communists on the board of directors of the proposed new labor organization. The CGT leaders are convinced that the Communists need CGT support and may be forced to accept their demands. As yet, however, the Communists have refused to join any new national labor organization as ordinary members. They contend that the Communists in such a new organization would far outnumber the total membership now belonging to the CGT.
6. The CGT leaders have also made overtures to the Socialist faction of the CTCh, and though preliminary conversations have been held, no agreement has been possible, because of the inflexible attitude of the CGT directors.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. New Review Date: 2009

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7. The main basis of contention is the demand of the CGT leaders that only its own members should hold directive positions within the proposed new Central Unica de Trabajadores de Chile. Another factor working against an agreement is the CGT's insistence that any new national labor organization in which the CGT participates must be essentially of a non-political nature.
8. Prior to its breakdown into Communist and Socialist factions, the CTCh played an important role in Chilean political life. Both the Socialist and Communist labor leaders are reluctant to give up the chance of regaining the political influence which they realize may be theirs through the formation of a new and powerful labor organization.
9. There are indications that the CGT maintains contact with the Federacion Obrera Regional Argentina, but the exact nature of this contact and mode of liaison is not known at present.

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