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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Chile

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) is placing special emphasis on the penetration of intellectual circles, and considers the influence of such men as Communist poet Pablo Neruda of vital importance.

2. One of the major intellectual groups in which Communist influence is dominant is the Teatro Experimental of the University of Chile. This theater is a cultural organization started by a group of people interested in the drama. They formed an organization and elected a directive council. This council consists of the following persons:

- Substitute Director: Augustin Sire, Communist sympathizer
- Counselor: Pedro Orthus, political affiliation unknown
- Treasurer and Administrators: Domingo Piga, Communist
- Members: Ruben Fotoconil, Communist
- Graciela Alvarez, Communist, wife of Fotoconil
- Ruben Angulo, Communist
- Jorge Lillo, Communist sympathizer
- Oscar Navarro, Communist sympathizer

3. The council's responsibilities fall in three principal categories: propaganda, training, and finance.

Propaganda. The plays are chosen to present certain social problems in a manner favorable to the Party. This medium for spreading propaganda is important to the Party since it reaches a stratum of society which it could not approach by other means. It is considered that dramatic presentations permit freedom to express ideas which could not be voiced through other channels. It also hopes to reach young people who could not be reached in regular political campaigns. The theater is being assisted at the present by persons of wealth, education, and social standing, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, German Riesco.

Training. The Teatro Experimental maintains a school of actors, decorators and other theatrical officials. The school operates in the University of Chile and is used by the PCCh to train young people who later go to the provinces to

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form "Cuadros Artisticos", art groups maintained by the Communist Party in all of the industrial and mining centers. The school functions under the auspices of the University and is maintained by subsidies from the Teatro Experimental, the University, and the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education authorizes scholarships to pupils from the provinces, who are selected by the Communist-dominated council of the theater.

Finance. The theater is financed principally by its box office receipts, although it receives some assistance from the University and the Ministry of Education. Admission is from 20 to 100 pesos, and in 1948, box office receipts amounted to one million pesos. These funds are managed by Administrator Domingo Figa, a Communist. Nothing of last year's one million pesos remains in the treasury at present, and the activities of the theater are being carried on with 80,000 pesos received from the Ministry of Education. The funds appear to have been spent in salaries to the artists, the majority of whom are Communists, and to some extent for decorations, rentals of furniture and properties. Source reported in addition that the Teatro Experimental was a heavy contributor to the funds for the Communist-front Frente Nacional Democratico and the Committee of Solidarity. The members of the council receive salaries from the Teatro Experimental and are thereby enabled to devote their entire time exclusively to the Communist Party. The Party benefits by using these paid workers in various other branches of the Party, while their salaries are paid by the theater.

4. The Teatro Experimental is now touring the provinces. It has been in Concepcion recently, where it enjoyed great success. In addition to presenting its plays, members of the theater assisted the Communist Party by carrying propaganda material and acting as couriers to the regional directors of the Party in Concepcion.

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