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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 15 AUG 49

SUBJECT Communist Reaction to Papal Decree of Excommunication

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1C

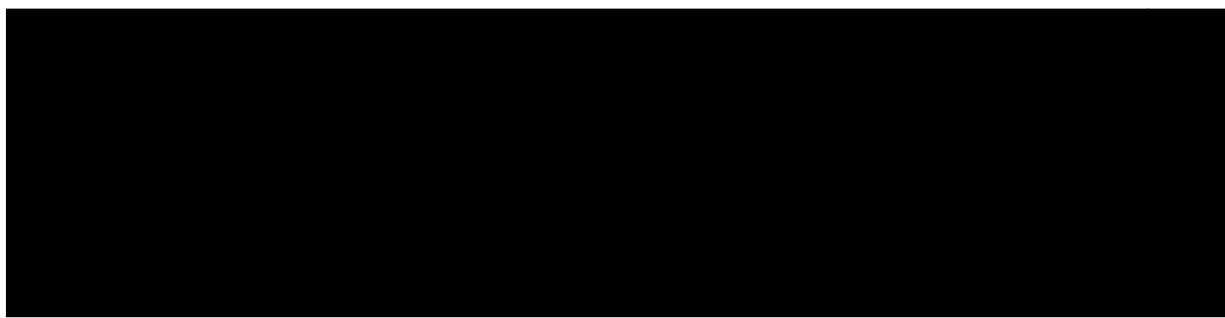
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1. Clandestine meetings were held on 17 July in Santiago by the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) to discuss the recent Papal Decree of Excommunication. The "activistas", or militants, of each cell were present.
2. [redacted] at one of these meetings an open forum was held to discuss the problem. All present agreed that the Papal Decree was a conspiracy between the United States and the Pope, and a complement to the Marshall Plan. Those in attendance at the meeting agreed that the measure had a political scope which the Directorate of the Communist Party cannot determine without discussing the possible effect with cell members. It was requested that the Papal Decree be read and discussed with the comrades in the factories and in sport centers. The effect of this decree on women is to be especially observed.
3. The meeting was told that the Directorate of the PCCh intended to make no decision for the moment, since it is awaiting new information from Europe. It was stated that the local Committee would distribute information to the cells within the week which could be used as a basis for theoretical discussion.
4. It was requested at the meeting that the following practical steps be taken in the interval:
  - a. A survey should be made of the effect of the Papal Decree among the workers, and especially among women workers.
  - b. A count of all Catholic Communists in each cell should be made. The names of these Catholics will be transmitted verbally.
  - c. The parish priests in the various districts are not to be attacked, but are to be assisted in the work they are doing.
  - d. Heated discussions should not be provoked in public.
  - e. Any attitude should be avoided which could be construed by the bourgeois press as an attempt at religious persecution by Communists.
  - f. If any priest gives an anti-Communist sermon from the pulpit, he should not be attacked, but some means should be sought to induce him to avoid a repetition of such a sermon.

CLASSIFICATION

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