

COUNTRY Chile  
SUBJECT Opposition of Communist-Front Technical Group  
to Granting Bolivian Corridor  
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1. The front organization of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), known as the Circulo de Estudios de Ingenieros, Arquitectos y Tecnicos, or Grupo de Tecnicos, is actively combatting the proposed government plan to grant Bolivia a corridor to the Pacific Ocean. The Grupo de Tecnicos is following the PCCh line, and is attacking the plan as part of a Yankee plot to gain more control over Chile's economy.\*
2. The organization had planned a forum on the subject to take place on 25 August 1950, but the meeting was postponed because of the death of Arturo Alessandri Palma on 24 August. The principal speakers at the meeting, which is scheduled to take place soon, will be Guillermo del Pedregal, president of the Pro-Peace Committee, and Abraham Alcaino.
3. The speakers will attempt to demonstrate that the proposed government plan to use the waters of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia to irrigate the northern Chilean desert regions has not been based on technical studies and should be opposed. Since the deal with Bolivia will, according to the thesis of the forum speakers, favor the interests of the United States to the detriment of Chilean interests, it will be suggested that the government approve another project which was discussed at the Eighth National Assembly of Chilean Engineers. This project involved harnessing the steam which escapes from the ground at "El Taito" in Atacama Province in north Chile. The Communist-inspired technical group will maintain that the power obtained from harnessing the steam would be cheap and would eliminate the present importation of petroleum to produce electricity for the copper and nitrate industries in northern Chile. The technicians will argue that the feasibility of this project has been proved by a similar operation in Italy.

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\* Comment. The Chilean Communist press has been following the line that the deal for the Bolivian corridor was arranged by President Truman with President Gonzalez Videla when the Chilean chief executive was in the United States in the spring of 1950. The Communists maintain that the United States wants a Pacific west coast port, nominally Bolivian but actually under American control, since such an acquisition in what they claim to be a strategic location would favor the interests of American imperialism.

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