

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 3 NOV 50

SUBJECT JUNECh Opposition to Law of Defense of Democracy

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

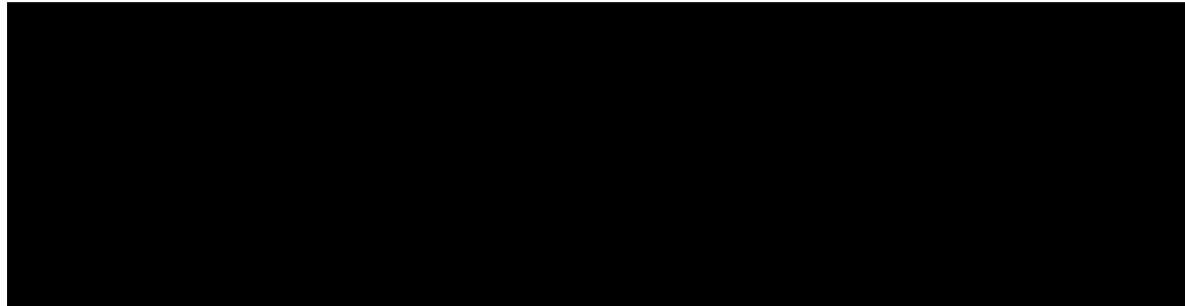
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. Leaders of the Junta Nacional de Empleados de Chile (JUNECh), the Chilean white-collar employees labor organization which has been considered to be in general free of Communist control, are reported to believe that the anti-Communist Law of Defense of Democracy should be repealed. JUNECh leaders believe that the Defense of Democracy Law has not been effective in eliminating Communists from political and syndical activities. They feel, on the contrary, that it has worked against the best interests of non-Communist syndical organizations. Under the law, Communists, as alleged members of other political entities, are able to direct the activities of the various employee and labor organizations in which they have influence, in accordance with the Communist line.
2. JUNECh leaders reportedly believe that if the Communists were allowed to operate openly as Communists, non-Communist labor and employee leaders would be able to recognize them and could defend themselves against their maneuvers. The disguised Communists are the most active and efficient members of the syndical organizations, and at present, non-Communist labor leaders are unable to denounce Communist activities for fear of provoking adverse reactions among the members of their syndicates. The JUNECh feels that if the Communists were allowed to act openly, they could be attacked openly and possibly eliminated from important positions within the labor organizations.
3. JUNECh's president, Eduardo Long Alessandri, who is not considered to be either a Communist or a Communist sympathizer, is opposed to the Law of Defense of Democracy, and believes it should be repealed. It is reported that JUNECh will devote a considerable part of its efforts in the coming months to working for the repeal of the anti-Communist law. It will also oppose other government projects, such as the Obligatory Savings bill and the proposal, known as the Ley del Delito Economico, to consider illegal strikes as economic crimes.

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Comment. On 24 September 1950 the JUNECh decided to consult with leaders of the Communist-front Defense of Public Liberties Committee to work for the release of Bernardo Araya Zuleta, head of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Chile Comunista, who had been arrested the week before under the law of Defense of Democracy.

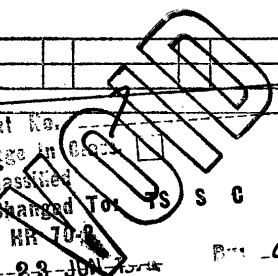
In mid-October, President Gonzalez Videla stated that he would favor repeal of the law if it could be certain that the Communists were not acting for Moscow.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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Considerable opposition to the law is growing and it is believed that the President may be forced to abandon his support of the law. The coming election to replace recently-deceased Arturo Alessandri in the Senate is considered of great importance to the government, since an opposition leftist Senator could possibly turn the balance against the law.