

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Chile

SUBJECT Communist Activities at 17 October Mass Labor Meeting

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1.  Chilean Communists were responsible for the fact that no public address systems were functioning at the mass meeting held on 17 October 1950 under the auspices of the Movimiento Unitario Nacional de Trabajadores (MUNT), the Comité Relacionador de Unidad Sindical (CRUS) and the Junta Nacional de Empleados de Chile (JUNECH).* The speeches made at the demonstration could scarcely be heard by any of the people assembled at the Plaza Artesanos in Santiago. The Communist Party, in view of the fact that they did not control the meeting, decided to deprive the speakers of public address facilities. The Communists reportedly realized that the speakers, representing Anarchists, Trotskyites and Socialists, as well as Communists, might create considerable disagreements among those taking part in the demonstration and the resulting trouble would harm the Communist cause. The Communists therefore decided to make it impossible for any of the speakers to be heard, even though the speech of the Communist representative would necessarily be inaudible, too. Allegedly the Communist Party and its front organizations, such as the Pro-Peace Committee and the Solidarity Committee are the only represented groups which have loud speaking facilities and technicians at their disposal, and it was therefore not difficult for the Communists to deprive the rally of public address equipment.
2. Realizing that speakers at meetings of this nature generally speak spontaneously and rarely have their speeches prepared in written form, the Communists decided prior to the demonstration that this situation could also be used to serve the Party's interests. The only Communist speaker at the rally, Ildefonso Aleman, was instructed to write out his speech in advance. This speech, although delivered without benefit of loudspeaker facilities, was printed in its entirety in the 13 October edition of Democracia, the Communist publication. As had been anticipated by the Communists, the Socialist, Anarchist and Trotskyite speakers did not have their speeches prepared in writing. The press representatives were unable to hear the speeches and gave them little press coverage. It is reported that the inside page of Democracia, which carried Aleman's address, is always prepared 24 hours ahead of publication, so it is believed that the text of his 17 October speech was handed to the paper prior to the time it was delivered.
3. Although press coverage of the mass meeting indicated that the rally had occurred without disturbances of any kind, and notwithstanding the Communists' instructions to their militants to disregard acts of provocation, it was reported that the more aggressive Communists actively opposed Socialist and Trotskyite efforts to

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distribute their propaganda. The Communists attempted to prevent the distribution of election literature favoring the senatorial candidacy of Popular Socialist Tomas Chadwick who has been opposed by the Political Commission of the Communist Party. Party militants also attempted to destroy copies of Frente Obrero, a newspaper issued by the Trotskyite Partido Obrero Revolucionario and which was offered for sale at the demonstration.**

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~~██████████~~ Comment. Press reports on 13 October 1950 indicated that the lack of public address facilities at the rally the evening before had been due to the telephone company's refusal to provide the necessary equipment.

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~~██████████~~ Comment. This issue of Frente Obrero contained an article on a meeting of MUET, CRUS and JUNECh leaders on 10 October who discussed the preparations for the 17 October rally and their common struggle against the government's so-called anti-inflationist projects. This article attacked the Communists, Socialists and JUNECh leaders vigorously, and the workers were advised to discard these leaders and to initiate a direct course of action which might even include calling a general strike.

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