

WTELOPA 12

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Chile

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SUBJECT Activities of Communist-Front Popular Bloc

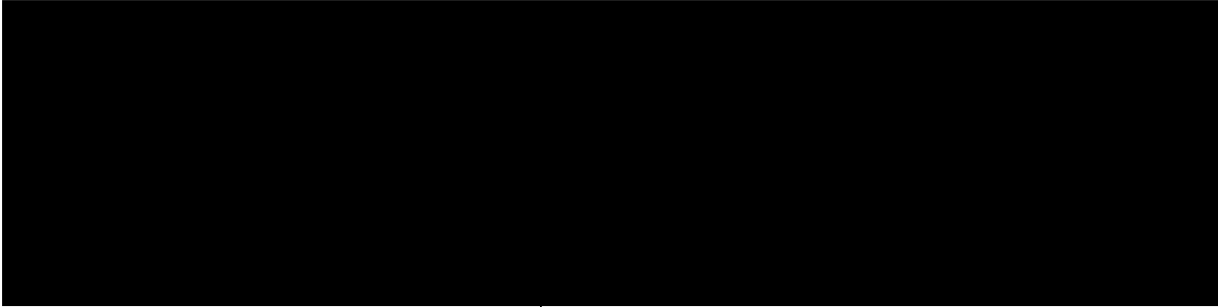
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The following information has been obtained on the organization of the Chilean Communist-front group, Bloque de Partidos Populares or Bloque Popular (Popular Bloc), through which the Communist Party hopes to be able to operate more or less openly in the political field in spite of the anti-Communist laws which forbid such activity:

Founded: 10 October 1950

Member Parties: "Democratico del Pueblo" Party  
Doctrinary Radical Party  
National Pro-Ibanez Movement  
Communist Party (which is referred to as "popular forces" to avoid repression under the Law of Defense of Democracy).

Directorate: Representatives of each member party, who can be replaced at any time by the order of the directorate of the appropriate party. The presidency rotates each month among the members. The present Directorate, which remains in office until March 1951, is composed of the following:

President: Santiago Wilson (Democratico del Pueblo)

Secretary General: Rene Frias Ojeda (Communist)

Secretary of Organization: Orlando Budnevic (Doctrinary Radical)

Treasurer: Severo Samaniego (Democratico del Pueblo)

Political Secretary: Humberto Martinez (Democratico del Pueblo)

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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- Coordination Committee: This committee will meet in March 1951 to elect the new Directorate. The Coordination Committee is composed of representatives of all the parties belonging to the Popular Bloc: Communist, Rene Frias Ojeda, Elias Lafertte Gavino, Salvador Ocamo Pastenes and Enrique Kirberg; Democratico del Pueblo Party, Santiago Wilson, Humberto Martinez, and Severo Samaniego; Doctrinary Radical Party, Armando Holzanhel, Rudecindo Ortega Mason, and Orlando Budnevic; Ibanez Movement, Aristides Novoa, Pedro Diaz and Carlos Ferrer.
- Labor Matters: The heads of the syndicate departments of each member together form the Popular Bloc's Syndicate Directorate.
- Meetings: Normally on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. at the Doctrinary Radical Party's headquarters at the corner of Agustinas and Arturo Alessandri streets, Santiago.

2. The objectives of the Popular Bloc are listed below:

- a) To encourage the unification of all authentically leftist parties.
- b) To fight against the repressive laws and to seek the liberation of political figures and labor leaders presently imprisoned by the government. This program is under the control of Santiago Labarca, president of the Communist Committee for the Defense of Public Liberties.
- c) To develop a popular campaign in opposition to the rise in the cost of living.
- d) To combat the "Ross Plan", a financial recovery and anti-inflationary program by ex-Finance Minister Gustavo Ross, for which the government has shown considerable interest. Rudecindo Ortega has been made responsible for carrying out the anti-Ross campaign, starting with a speech made at the 11 February Popular Bloc-Socialist Front manifestation at the Caupolican Theater in Santiago.
- e) To demand that Chilean independence of action be maintained in spite of current international events, such as the Korean War and the coming Foreign Ministers' Conference in Washington.
- f) To defend Chilean commerce from American imperialistic firms. Salvador Ocamo Pastenes, Communist Senator, planned to make a speech in this connection in the Senate, a popularization of an earlier one made by Salvador Allende, Popular Socialist Senator.

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The first joint public meeting of the Popular Bloc and the Socialist Front, held on 11 February 1951, indicated that the differences between the two groups had not been settled. According to press accounts, the Socialists, particularly those belonging to the Socialist Party of Chile, denounced Communist international policy, and caused dissension between Communists and Socialists present at the meeting.

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