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INFORMATION REPORT

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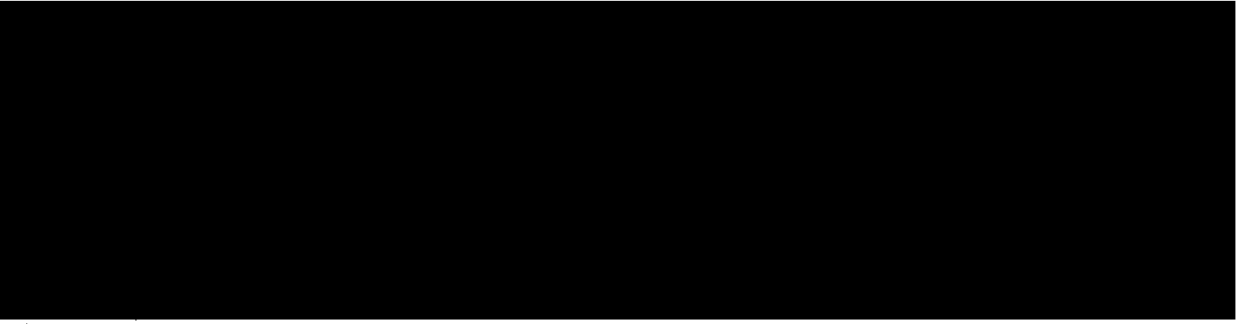
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DATE OF INFO. Prior to 23 October 1951

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Uruguayan National Pro-Peace Conference held in Montevideo on 12-13 October 1951, although considered by local Communists to be a success from a propaganda standpoint, failed to develop the interest which the Communists had counted on. Approximately thirty delegates instead of seventy from the interior of Uruguay, and only four foreign representatives from other Latin American countries attended the conference. At a closed meeting held on the afternoon of 13 October, the assembled members proposed that the Conference of Latin American Intellectuals be held in Montevideo "some time during November 1951".*
2. Local delegates, primarily Jose Luis Massera, Secretary General of the Pro-Peace group, and Armando Gonzalez, were highly desirous of having the congress in Montevideo in November. However, due to arrangements now being undertaken in Santiago, Chile, for holding it in that city, the leaders were somewhat in doubt about the final outcome of their offer to hold the meeting in Montevideo. Despite this indecision, Communist leaders have definitely announced that the congress will be held in Montevideo. Energetic fund-raising campaigns will be initiated within a short period of time to provide funds to cover the expenses of the congress.
3. The public inaugural session of the local conference commenced in the Cine Stella with an estimated 500-600 people, many of Slavic extraction, in attendance. Ostensibly the meeting was in charge of Mario Bordaberre, a director of a liceo in Carmelo; however, Massera maintained a firm control over the congress at all times.
4. Those accorded special seats of honor were Frederic Joliot Curie (in absentia); Venancio Lozaya; Jose Bergamin, Spanish Communist in Uruguay; Dr. Leonor Aguiar Vasquez, of Argentina; Pedro Motta Lima, of Brazil; Juan Lamatta**, of Chile; and Fedrico Tater, of Paraguay. Massera delivered the principal address, which contained nothing different from the usual

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attacks on the United States by the Communist press of Uruguay.

5. Upon the completion of Massera's speech, the Federacion Isrealita Juvenil Uruguay (Jewish Communist Youth Group) choir, under the direction of Sonia Goldstein, sang several songs which were first sung at the Youth Congress in Berlin. Eugenio Petit Munoz followed with a short speech requesting a change in Uruguayan laws which would make all persons who were in favor of war subject to arrest. The meeting was closed with a lengthy address by Jose Bergamin, the Communist writer. Bergamin said that there was a slanderous campaign being conducted by the anti-Communist Uruguayan press which was denouncing him for being a Communist (an honorable accusation according to Bergamin) even though he was a Catholic. However, he stated that he did not care if this were necessary in order that he be identified on the "side of truth". He spoke of his great respect for the Soviet Government in heading such a campaign (of peace) and bitterly criticized the U.S. Government for its persecutions of the "lovers of peace".
6. From the Cine Stella, the entire group went to the esplanada in front of the municipal building, where the Communists had planned a huge outdoor demonstration. Although the Communist press mentioned that 15,000 persons attended the meeting, source's most generous estimates were 3,000.
7. At the afternoon sessions on 13 October, which only authorized members were permitted to attend, Armando Gonzalez told the assembly that the Latin American Congress of Intellectuals was to be held in Montevideo and that all plans were being made locally for that possibility. He said that the Chileans had great interest in the congress, and that when it was held, it would be headed by Gabriela Mistral, the Chilean poetess and Nobel prize winner. He did not inform the delegates of the fact that Santiago is a possible congress site. Massera also urged that the Uruguayan members continue their all-out efforts for financial contributions to defray the expenses of holding the congress in Montevideo.
8. The meeting closed with the group's approval of the following resolutions adopted earlier in the afternoon:
 - a. Intensify the campaign against U.S. war mongers.
 - b. Neutralize the effects of the imperialist-controlled press in Uruguay.
 - c. Create new "Pro-Paz" groups which would be used to spread propaganda.
 - d. Establish special auxiliary committees of women and university students to petition the government, which is now following U.S. war policies.
9. Delegates from the interior who took an active part in the conference sessions were:

Haroldo Esquivel - Young (Rio Negro)
Fabian Silvera and Manuel Arias - De Melo (Cerro Largo)
Washington De Lara - Salto
Mario Bordaberre - Carmelo (Colonia)
Leoncio Perez - San Jose
Irma De Lucas - Paysandu
Oscar Rubbo and Juan Antonio Rubbo, Villa La Paz (Canelones)
Luis Ancheri Perez, Maria Castellanos de Puchet, Carlos Scaffo - Durazno

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Comment: Chilean delegate Lamatta, along with Massera and other Uruguayan Communist leaders, reportedly met with Salvador Ocampos Pastenes, Chilean Communist deputy, during his one day stopover in Montevideo.

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