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I. Relationship Between HMB and FOF.

1. The FOF is a reserve force of the HMB, and FOF members are classified as "progressive reserves" of the Philippine Communist Party and the HMB. This classification derives from the fact that while FOF members are active in a legally registered labor union, their objectives, in general, parallel the long range policies of the Philippine Communist Party and the HMB. Although the rank and file members of the FOF are not aware of this classification of their membership, FOF officers have been so informed.
2. FOF officers believe that the loyalty of rank and file members to their leadership is so strong that they will follow the decisions of their leaders. When the need arises, and when arms are available in sufficient quantities, FOF members will be armed to participate in HMB operations in the Visayas.
3. The FOF organization is strong in the following localities in Negros: San Carlos, Pulupandan, Valladolid, San Enrique, Bazo, Hinigaran, La Castellana, Isabela, Binalbagan, Himamaylan, Kabankalan, Ilog, and San Carlota.

II. FOF-HMB Officers.

1. Nicanor Dimson,² who is also known as Alfredo Fernandez, is an HMB organizer and director who was sent by Guillermo Capadocia to organize HMB units in the mountains of Negros Occidental. He succeeded in organizing 50 men at Taguk, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, where he was captured with his men and with some documents. In order to protect his men, Dimson confessed to being personally responsible for their activities. The men subsequently were released. While he was in Negros, Dimson contacted Zacarias Seminio, President of the FOF Chapter in Pulupandan,

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Negros Occidental. On Capadocia's orders, Dimson did not contact other FOF units in order to confine his work to the mountain areas.

2. Manuel Palacios is the first vice president of the FOF, as well as chief of the FOF organization in Negros. In June 1951, Palacios was confined in the Government's Panay Task Force Stockade in Iloilo City, Iloilo. Palacios was released on the basis of the testimony of Pedro Torres y Ternora³ who was then under detention, and upon the intervention of Governor Rafael Lacson. Torres exonerated Palacios by stating that the latter had quarrelled with Capadocia at a meeting in FOF Headquarters in Iloilo in 1949, thus demonstrating that the two were not on good terms.⁴
3. Governor Lacson appointed Palacios a deputy agent of his office after releasing him from the stockade. Lacson supports Palacios because the latter commands a considerable political force in Negros. Palacios has approximately 40 small arms in Ilog, in addition to an unspecified quantity of arms in Talubangi, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. Edmund Vail and Pedro Buenaventura, relatives of Palacios who are brothers-in-law, control a cache of approximately 30 weapons in Ilog. Neither Vail nor Buenaventura are members of the FOF, but they represent Palacios in Ilog, and Buenaventura is a deputy agent of Lacson.
4. Zacarias Semirio, who formerly was a close associate of Guillermo Capadocia, is President of the Pulupandan Chapter of the FOF, as well as an organizer for the Mindanao zone of the FOF. Semirio and Palacios directed a person known as Tonieng who burned sugar cane on the La Carlota Sugar Central and other sugar estates following a strike in 1948. Tonieng served as a bodyguard for FOF President Jose M. Nava. Semirio was released from the Panay Task Force stockade during 1951 following the intervention of Governor Lacson.
5. Julio Presbitero, legal adviser for the FOF and an organizer for the Mindanao zone, was arrested with Jose Nava. He was released when he agreed to give evidence to the Government, following Lacson's intervention. Presbitero, who is confining his testimony to Jose Nava, visited Loreto Gareza, President of the Himamaylan (Negros) Chapter of the FOF, and Rosendo Jacildo of the Pulupandan Chapter who are confined in the Panay Task Force stockade.⁵ Presbitero succeeded in smuggling letters out of the stockade, and he promised Gareza and Jacildo that Lacson would arrange their release. Gareza had been arrested previously by the Philippine Constabulary (PC) in Negros for making inflammatory speeches. Lacson arranged his release.
6. Jose Valdevieja, a member of the Pulupandan FOF Chapter, is now in Davao as an organizer for the Mindanao zone of the FOF, but he is in fact engaged in organizational work for the HMB.
7. Jacildo, Gareza, and Valdevieja attended a labor school which was operated by the Philippine Communist Party on Pinpin Street in Manila during 1946 as FOF representatives.

III. Relations of Guillermo Capadocia with the FOF.

1. Immediately prior to his departure for the mountains of Panay as HMB Supervisor of RECO-6 in 1949, Guillermo Capadocia had a conference with Jose Nava and other senior FOF officials in Iloilo City. Nava called a second conference after Capadocia had gone underground, and it was decided to oust Capadocia from the FOF directorate in order to conceal the relationship of the FOF to the HMB.
2. In November 1949, Nava ordered Restituto Sumili, one of his bodyguards, to join the HMB in the mountains. Sumili was to take with him a box of arms, a box of ammunition, and a box of grenades. Sumili refused to accept this assignment, and he departed for Mindanao. He is now confined in Iloilo on charges of rebellion, but he has not testified against Nava. In addition to arms, Nava supplied the HMB with medicines.

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IV. Conditions in Negros Occidental.

Residents of Negros Occidental have described the provincial administration as being "a la Comunista".⁶ In support of this description, they have cited the following examples:

- (a) Intimidation by Temporary Police at checkpoints, as well as irregularities in the checkpoints at Talisay, Valladolid, and La Castellana.
- (b) Displays of force by Lacson's men which have included threats and intimidation of opponents of the Governor.
- (c) Destruction of sugar cane of haciendas owned by former Senator Pedro C. Hernandez by Temporary Police who have so intimidated hacienda laborers that no cane has been milled for two years.
- (d) Threats by Lacson to delegates attending the Liberal Party convention in Binalbagan during September 1951. Lacson later walked out on the convention, and Binalbagan Police subsequently were replaced by Temporary Police employed by Lacson.
- (e) Sponsorship by Lacson of the FOF as a labor organization. The Binalbagan Sugar Central Labor Union is sponsored by Lacson under a new name, with Jose Valencia, chief of the Temporary Police for the Third District, a Lacson protege and bodyguard, as leader. Palacios manipulated this change in the union leadership, although the organization is composed principally of FOF members.
- (f) Necessity for Military Intelligence Service (MIS) agents to obtain Lacson's permission to operate in Negros. The activities of MIS agents are obstructed by Lacson's men.
- (g) Domination by Lacson of Captain Marcial Enriquez, PC Provincial Commander. Public knowledge of this situation has resulted in a loss of prestige for the PC.

V. HMB Activities in Panay.

1. HMB RECO-6 in Panay does not aspire to overthrow the local Government, nor do plans include the elimination of Government forces. RECO-6 leaders consider themselves incapable of succeeding in these actions, and encounters with Government troops are the result of unavoidable incidents or unauthorized activity by undisciplined units.
2. The mission of RECO-6 includes the following:
 - (a) To divert attention from the main HMB endeavor in Luzon, where the Philippine Communist Party Political Bureau and the HMB over-all command are situated.
 - (b) To fulfill organizational purposes.
 - (c) To demoralize the local Government.
 - (d) To improve the morale of HMB sympathizers.
 - (e) To conduct propaganda activities.
 - (f) To collect supplies and to become familiar with Panay terrain.

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3. HMB members who have surrendered or who have been captured declare that they were attracted to the HMB by propaganda, or that they joined the HMB without knowing its aims. Members of RECO-6 units actually have joined of their own volition, and they have been indoctrinated in Communist aims and are familiar with HMB purposes.
4. Members of RECO-6 who have surrendered have done so for the following reasons:
 - (a) Because of the failure of the Manila Political Bureau to assist them.
 - (b) Because of continued raids by Government troops.
 - (c) Because of shortages of food and arms, as well as widespread illness.

Surrendered and captured HMB members have ignored the indoctrination which the Government has conducted in detention camps. They believe that the HMB campaign will succeed eventually, and they believe that events in Panay represent only a temporary failure.

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1. Comment. The description of FOF members as "progressive reserves" of the Philippine Communist Party and the HMB was originated by Guillermo Cepadocia, ranking HMB and Communist leader who was killed by Government forces in September 1951.

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Comment. [redacted], which this report supplements, described the present position of the FOF labor organization since the arrest of Jose Nava on 3 May 1951. This report also referenced previous reports on Nava and included additional information on other persons mentioned in this report.

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2. Comment. A press report of 4 September 1951 indicated that Dimson, political director of HMB Field Command 64, pleaded guilty to Government charges following his arrest. He was given a 10-year prison sentence.

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3. Comment. Torres, an FOF officer from San Enrique, Negros Occidental, is an HMB political director and advisor, as well as a member of RECO-6. He is now confined in the Panay Task Force stockade.

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Comment. President Quirino suspended Governor Lacson on 22 November 1951.

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4. Comment. This quarrel with Cepadocia was in fact an ordinary difference of opinion, but it was exaggerated by Torres in an effort to exonerate Palacios.

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5. Comment. Among several Philippine Communist Party documents which were confiscated in August 1947 was a letter addressed to Comrades Leon and Pando. Leon has been identified as Leopoldo Ponelas, Congress of Labor Organizations (CLO) leader. Pando may have referred to Mateo del Castillo who is known to have used this pseudonym recently. This document, dated 26 August 1946, was a report from Negros Occidental signed by Benito Serrano, which may be a true name. Serrano described the Provincial Committee of the FOF as follows: President: Palacios; Second Vice-Director of the Organization Department: Gariza (Gareza); Chief of Finance Committee: Siminio (Seminio).

In a section referring to Communist Party organization, Serrano referred to the comrades studying "there", probably referring to Manila. He stated that Gareza would be head of the (Party) Organization Department, and that Valdevia (Valdevieja) would be head of the (Party) Education Department in Negros Occidental.

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Serrano also referred to Hacildo (Tagalog spelling of Jacildo who may be identical with the person referred to in this report) in connection with Party work and declared that he was still a candidate because he was still weak. The remainder of the document described the Party's close cooperation with Jose Nava and complained that Capadocia was a problem because he sought to direct both the Party and the FOF organizations himself.

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6. Comment. The phrase "a la Comunista" has been interpreted as a generalized reference to the arbitrary actions of the provincial administration, rather than as an indication that the public is aware of actual Communist activity on the part of provincial officials.

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Comment. It is believed that the FOF is maintaining a policy of remaining inconspicuous at the present time, but that the organization constitutes as a reserve force of the HMB and Communist Party in Negros. In some areas, the FOF is changing the name of its units in order to maintain the loyalty of its membership and in an effort to avoid being linked with subversive activity. The FOF organization has control of private arsenals of arms and ammunition. The organization is using the political power of Governor Lacson as protection, and it is engaging in political activity in collaboration with Lacson in order to increase its influence with him.

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Comment. [REDACTED], his general observations on the subject of Lacson and his provincial administration are in agreement with those which have been reported by other Sources. However, it has not been reported previously that Lacson is being exploited by the FOF, and thus by the Communists, while Lacson himself believes that he is using the FOF.

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