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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 19 Jan. 1952

SUBJECT Probable Formation of Frente Democratico-
Popular as Clandestine Communist Party of Colombia

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



1. Since the beginning of November 1951 the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) has been seriously considering the possibility that the Party may be declared illegal at any time and therefore has been preparing for this contingency. The PCC has reportedly received orders from the Cominform to plan the organization of a new party which would not be labelled Communist and which would endeavor to enlist the support of all those persons who are discontented with present conditions. Known Marxists should continue to head the remains of the ostensible Communist Party, but the clandestine group must be directed by men not openly affiliated with the PCC. It is pointed out that the governments of the United States and Colombia have a more or less complete list of local Communists and sympathizers.
2. One of the principal persons being considered for leadership of the secret organization, which is to be called the Frente Democratico-Popular, is Enrique Perez Arbelaez,* a Catholic priest and a scientist who is well known in many countries. Perez has not been censored by his superiors thus far, and furthermore, he enjoys the respect of the Conservative regime. He was one of the signers convoking the American Continental Conference for Peace, scheduled for December 1951. Perez has attempted to persuade the government that it should participate in more international scientific assemblies, and he is now engaged in organizing a Third South American Botanical Congress for 1953.
3. At a meeting of Party leaders on 26 November Juan Francisco Mujica stated that the activities of the PCC are in danger of being officially suppressed by the government, basing this fear in large part on the recent appointment of Luis Ignacio Andrade as Minister of Government. Andrade, who is an extreme rightist and who was until November Colombian Ambassador to the Vatican, has stated that the PCC might become dangerous if allowed to continue its present organizational activities. Mujica pointed out that the selection of Andrade is likewise a strike at the Liberals, and that the latter might also be forced to organize popular fronts. It was argued by Mujica that the Party should follow the legal line in all respects and at the same time emphasize the building up of secret sources of opposition among labor groups. Criticizing the Independent Confederación de Trabajadores (CTC) sharply, he stated that the directors lacked the energy and the capacity to carry on the Communist struggle in labor.

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4. The PCC Central Committee has taken note of the recent establishment of a Comando Conservador Anticomunista, which reportedly has connections with similar groups in Mexico. It is learned that this organization is setting up branches throughout the country for the purpose of watching the activities of PCC members and sympathizers. It is estimated that the Bogota group has about 50 units in various professional lines. The organizer is said to be Jose Almonacid, a Jesuit priest. The headquarters are in offices supervised by the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Present plans of the PCC call only for passive and silent resistance to the new movement, but Jaime Barrios has been ordered to make a thorough investigation of the organization.
5. The directorate of the PCC is considering moving its offices from the present address, Carrera 6 No. 12-71, because of official vigilance. Recently the offices of the inactive Comando Central Electoral were searched by the police, but no compromising documents were found.
6. The Party leaders are also studying the matter of establishing a printing press, and it is hoped that a new company can be set up with general facilities. The greater part of the PCC's former equipment is now reportedly in the house of Carlos Arturo Aguirre. It is suggested that a new printing shop should publish a weekly paper to stress the theme of "peace and democracy" and serve as a propaganda outlet for the projected party, the Frente Democratico-Popular.

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