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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [(b)(3)]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 26 JUL 50

SUBJECT Communist Activity in Strike at Maria Elena Plant

NO. OF PAGES EXEMPT from Declass
Per E. O. 12065, Sec. 3-4
Re-review 2010

PLACE ACQUIRED [(b)(1) (b)(3)]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) (b)(3)

DATE OF INFO. June 1950 (b)(3)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. []

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [(b)(1) (b)(3)]

1. Reports received by Chilean Investigations have convinced the police that the labor disturbances occurring at the Maria Elena nitrate plants have been directed by Communists. The leaders of the Sindicato Industrial Obrero de Maria Elena, who engineered the strikes, are all members or affiliates of the Communist Youth organization. (b)(1) (b)(3) c
2. The principal officers of the Syndicate, Rigoberto Echeverria Allende, Mario del Rosario Mans Herrera, Enrique Honero Salfate and Arnaldo Antonio Lopez Paredes, all young Communists, were disqualified from taking part in the activities of the Syndicate by Decree No. 32 of 9 June 1950. This disqualification left the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and First Director of the Syndicate vacant, so that only the Second Director, Juan de Dios Lucero Diaz, had recognized authority to negotiate with the company. The members of the Strike Committee were also disqualified to hold any syndicate officers. Their names and reported Party affiliations are listed as follows:

 Juan Valdivia Carrera, Communist, Committee Chairman
 Jorje Araya Escobar, Communist
 Alfonso Polanco Montenegro, Communist
 Victoriano Paulino Nieva, Communist Youth organization
 Juan Sergio Escobar Veliz, Communist Youth organization
3. At a large meeting held on 18 June 1950, the syndicate determined not to abide by the government's order, and decided by acclamation that it would not remove its officers. The officers themselves agreed to noncompliance with the decree on the advice of their lawyer, Pedro Eduardo Gonzalez Garcia, who gave his opinion that the order was unlawful and based on mere suspicion. Rigoberto Echeverria Allende then told the members that the leaders would remain in office. It was decided that the officers would remain in union headquarters, which would be under constant guard by the union members.
4. The 18 June meeting was also addressed by Carlos Aguilera Zamorata, Benigno Herrera Herrera and Jose Jara Soto, leaders of the railroad workers' union, the Sindicato Profesional de Obreros del Ferrocarril Tocopilla al Toco. They proclaimed the solidarity of the railway union with the nitrate workers, and threatened an indefinite strike if the company would not agree to arbitrate through rail union leader Aguilera Zamorata.

Approved for Release
Date 11/19/99

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