

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1357

February 19, 1952

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

- 2 Encls.

Air Pouch

FEB 20 1952

REF : 000183 Labor Developments

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

18
For Dept.
Use Only

SUBJECT: Labor Leader Criticizes Internal Security Act and American Unions

J. S. Lippe

R FEB
E 21
C
D

Attached herewith are copies of two memoranda dealing with a reported statement by Marcos A. HIRIGOYEN, Secretary General of the Cuban Transport Workers' Federation, in which he bitterly criticizes certain portions of the Internal Security Act of 1950 which have kept him and Eusebio MUJAL, Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of Labor, from easy entry into the United States because of Communist affiliation some years ago. He also criticized the American labor movement for not having enough influence to effect a change in regulations which placed obstacles in the way of international labor cooperation actually sponsored by the AFL and CIO.

A ARA
C INFO
T REP
I DCR
O OLI
N E
I UNA
N EUR/X
F VD

Hirigoyen's remarks are especially interesting in view of recent Argentine activity in forming a new Latin American union confederation in opposition to the anti-Communist Inter-American Organization of Labor (ORIT) which has headquarters in Habana. The new confederation would be anti-Communist and "anti-capitalist", according to press reports, with "capitalist" meaning ORIT and, of course, the United States.

COMM
FRB
L
N
ne
This Document Must Be Returned To
DC/R
837.06/2-1952

The Department's attention is directed also to a Confidential OM of February 18, 1952 entitled "Effect of Administration of Internal Security Act of 1950 Upon Conduct of Relations Between the United States and Other Countries".

The Embassy's labor reporting officer will continue to give close attention to Mujal's attitude toward ORIT and the new Latin American labor federation.

For the Ambassador:

Irvin S. Lippe
Irvin S. Lippe
Attaché

MAR 17 1952

Enclosures:

- ✓ No. 1 - Embassy Memo dated 2/13/52
- ✓ No. 2 - " " " 2/15/52

ISLippe:rc
REPORTER(S)

FILED

Confidential File

RP

Page. of
Desp. No.
From

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 1 of
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 1357
From HABANA

M E M O R A N D U M

February 15, 1952

TO: E. T. Crain

FROM: I. S. Lippe

The statement of Marcos Hirigoyen, Secretary General of the Cuban Transport Workers' Union, regarding his belief that the Cuban Confederation of Labor ought to discontinue affiliation with the Inter-American Organization of Labor (ORIT), and also that CTC Secretary General Eusebio Mujal was beginning to take a similar view, is disturbing in view of present activity on the part of the labor movement of Argentina in sponsoring a new Latin American labor federation. A CGT-sponsored meeting on this took place in Paraguay last week. Undoubtedly, the visa problem for Hirigoyen and Mujal is very annoying to them and a genuine strain on the successful and effective work of ORIT. However, it has been apparent to me for some time that there exist some differences between Mujal and Francisco AGUIRRE, Secretary General of ORIT. In my opinion this feeling results from jealousy on Mujal's part because of the prominence in international labor and freedom of movement which Aguirre has. Mujal is a vain individual and no doubt is smarting under the embarrassment imposed by the 9th Proviso every time he wants to go to the United States. Perhaps Hirigoyen was exaggerating, but it is possible that Mujal may see himself as a great international labor leader in a new federation. It is not inconceivable that Hirigoyen also feels he could expand his influence in such a set-up. It should be recalled that after the Milan meeting last July of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Mujal was critical of that session, saying that the Americans and British dominated the conference. It should also be remembered that while José Luis MARTINEZ, Secretary General of the National Federation of Sugar Workers, and others, along with Aguirre were in New York and Washington in December on international labor matters (ORIT meeting and proposed sugar workers' conference), Mujal chose this moment to announce that he had called an international sugar workers' conference for Habana May 1, 1952. The nature of his announcement and the timing of it made me feel that here was evidence again of his desire to play an important role in international labor in which, of course, he is handicapped if he cannot have free movement between here and the United States.

ISLippe:rc

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Crain February 13, 1952

FROM: J. Canter

SUBJ: Marcos Hirigoyen threatens alliance with Argentine Labor Federation

In a conversation which Mr. Salvatierra and I had today with Mr. Lorenzo Pérez, Superintendent General of the Consolidados Railroad, Mr. Pérez informed us of the following:

Mr. Pérez was recently present at a discussion with Marcos Hirigoyen, Secretary General of the Cuban Transport Workers Union and a representative of that union in the CTC. In the course of the discussion Mr. Hirigoyen revealed that he had recently been refused a visa to go to a labor meeting in Miami because he once belonged to the communist party, that the Embassy and the Department of State knew very well that he had long ago rejected communism, and that, consequently, the refusal to grant him a visa was an act of unfriendliness, which he deeply resented. Hirigoyen further stated that apparently the American labor federations - the AFL and CIO - did not have sufficient influence with the Department of State to affect its decisions in matters relating to international labor relations, and that it was his opinion that the Cuban labor unions would do well to break off their ties with American labor federations and to ally themselves with the Confederación General de Trabajo of Argentina. He went on to say that Eusebio Mujal, Secretary General of the CTC, was beginning to take a similar view. Mujal, he said, had also been denied a visa which would have allowed him to attend the Miami meeting. Hirigoyen considered the situation particularly irritating because his wife, who was also formerly affiliated with the communist party, had had no trouble in securing a visa for the United States.

JCanter/fmr

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Man