

Air Pouch
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

837.06/4-1653
XR 800.06 ICFTU

Central
Files

This Document Must Be Returned To
DC/R

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1618
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. - 2 Encs. April 16, 1953
DATE

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 20 1953
File JCT

2 For Dept. Use Only mi	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA	REP OLI E IBS
	REC'D	OTHER
	APR 18	COMM LAB

SUBJECT: Labor Leaders' Comments Regarding the Strained Relations between the Cuban CTC and ORIT

Transmitted herewith are two memoranda, of conversations held a month ago by the Embassy's former labor reporting officer with (1) an American labor official, and (2) a Costa Rican labor official, both then in Habana attending conferences concerning plantation workers.

Dr. Ernst SCHWARZ, CIO Latin American representative, in his conversation on March 15, expresses the thought that the World Sugar Workers' Secretariat, which it is hoped to establish as an affiliate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), should be set up in Habana. Schwarz considers this desirable, among other reasons, as a means of compensating politically for the Rio de Janeiro decision to remove the headquarters of the Inter-American Regional Organization (ORIT) from Habana to Mexico City. Dr. Schwarz also suggests the desirability of selecting, as AFL and CIO delegates to this summer's ICFTU meeting in Stockholm, labor officials who were not present at the Rio meeting remembered so bitterly by Cuban labor. He stresses that it is important to prevent the formation of a Latin American ICFTU affiliate separate from the ORIT.

Sr. Luis Alberto MONGE, the Costa Rican labor leader elected ORIT Secretary General at the Rio meeting, on March 18 informed the Embassy that Eusebio MUJAL, Secretary General of the CTC, had taken advantage of the Habana plantation labor conference to politick among foreign delegates for the establishment of a Latin American labor organization separate from ORIT. Monge feels that Cuban resentment over the transfer of ORIT headquarters from Habana to Mexico City stems principally from the belief that Cuban labor thus lost a political prop, vis a vis the Batista dictatorship. Monge's impression on this point jibes with a statement made directly to the Embassy months

337.06/4-1653

LWC

FILED

APR 28 1953

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

BRCrooks:rc
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

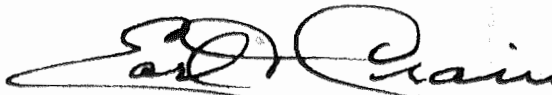
ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

earlier by a prominent Cuban labor leader.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures: *AA*

- No. 1 - Memorandum of Conversation - March 15
- No. 2 - " " " - March 18

Copies to: Anembassy, Mexico, D. F.
Mr. Fishburn - ARA

AA

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Memorandum of Conversation
March 15

March 17, 1953

Participants:

Dr. Ernst Schwarz, CIO Latin American Representative
I. S. Lippe

Dr. SCHWARZ outlined the events of the recent World Sugar Workers' Conference in Habana and also the ICFTU Plantation Workers' Conference which followed. The conferences were apparently quite orderly with no Communist disturbances of any kind. The Sugar Workers' Conference asked for the establishment of a World Sugar Workers' Secretariat to be affiliated with the ICFTU. Dr. Schwarz said that Cuban labor leaders strongly advocated the establishment of the headquarters in Habana. He said that he promised MUJAL to do his best to bring this about. He felt that the logical location for the office was Habana and furthermore was inclined to see Cuba given something after the bitter pills it was forced to swallow, although deservedly, at the Rio conference of ORIT. Dr. Schwarz felt that this might go a long way toward overcoming the ill feeling created at Rio.

In connection with the efforts of the Cuban CTC to form a separate hemisphere labor federation which would exclude the unions of the United States and Canada, Dr. Schwarz was of the opinion that this would be the very worst thing that could happen from the point of view of American interests. He said that it would "ghettoize" Latin American labor and create a possible anti-American bloc, one which might make deals with ATLAS and perhaps on occasion with the Communists. He asked the Embassy labor officer to bring this to the attention of the ARA labor adviser who might want to suggest to the AFL and CIO that their delegates to the coming ICFTU meeting in Stockholm be urged to oppose the establishment of any separate federation for Latin America. He said that it might be well if delegates were chosen who had not attended the Rio conference of ORIT. He said those delegates might be inclined to give the Latin Americans what they wanted after the bitter experience of Rio. Dr. Schwarz said that Mujal and other CTC representatives had approached various delegations during the Sugar Workers' and Plantation Workers' Conferences to win their support for a separate federation in Latin America. He said that Mujal did not meet with any success.

I. S. Lippe

cc: John L. Topping, Esquire

Memorandum of Conversation
March 18

March 19, 1953

Participants:

Alberto Monge, Secretary-General of ORIT
I. S. Lippe

Mr. MONGE is in Habana attending the meeting of the Plantations Committee of the ILO. He said that he had had several talks with MUJAL who, while pressing his case for the establishment of a separate Latin American labor federation, nevertheless seemed to want to talk to the American labor leaders. Monge was of the opinion that the Cuban labor leaders are trying to blackmail the ICFTU and the American unions into giving them whatever they want. Monge said that Mujal talked very, very critically of U. S. unions but that he, Monge, believes Mujal and the other CTC leaders would actually like to make peace and stay in ORIT. To this end, Monge has a three-point program: (1) to find out from the CTC leaders just what their differences are with the American unionists; (2) to suggest that the U. S. unions send fraternal delegates to the coming CTC Congress in May; and (3) to propose a joint statement of mutual affection and understanding by John L. LEWIS, George MEANY, Jacob POTOFISKY and Mujal. Behind the scenes Monge said Mujal has been seeking a conference with American labor leaders and he therefore believes that this program may be successful. Monge was of the opinion that the CTC leaders' major reason for resenting the transfer of ORIT headquarters to Mexico City was that they were feeling insecure in the present Government of Cuba and felt that ORIT headquarters in Habana would serve in some way to protect them in the event of trouble with the Government.

ISLippe:rc