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837.06/8-1451

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : HABANA

252

August 14, 1951

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. 1 enc.

REF. : 000183 Labor Developments, Despatch 250

SUBJECT: EUSEBIO MUJAL CRITICIZES RESULTS OBTAINED IN RECENT ICFTU CONGRESS

INFO  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 BUREAU OF  
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
 AUG 20 1951  
 J. H. Crane

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Eusebio MUJAL, Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of Workers, during a recent press interview, severely criticized the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) Congress held in Milan in July.

Mujal reportedly stated that the Congress was a complete failure and a deception to the Cuban labor movement, because it was demonstrated that the ICFTU is a reformist organization, without color or enthusiasm. Mujal went on to say that the organization was urgently in need of a change in its policy, therefore Cuba intends to bring the question to a head, within the ORIT (Inter-American Regional Workers Organization) and the ICFTU.

Mujal charged that the North American and British interests dominated the Congress and prevented many important items from being considered. He mentioned specifically: 1) the Iranian oil question, adding that the Cuban delegation favored the nationalization of that industry; 2) the situation in dictator controlled countries such as the Dominican Republic, Peru and Venezuela; 3) the Argentine labor movement; 4) the creation of a twenty million dollar fund for the purpose of assisting labor movements in underdeveloped areas; and 5) sending labor organizers behind the iron curtain.

Mujal reportedly stated that the presence of several observers from the WFTU (World Federation of Trade Unions) went unnoticed by the Congress. He ended the interview by stating that unless steps were taken to change the present passive policies of the ICFTU, the possibility of the emergence of a "third position", such as that advocated by Peron, could not be overlooked.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

*Ray H. Crane*  
Ray H. Crane  
Assistant Attaché

Enclosure: *AN*  
Newspaper clipping

RHCrane:WJN  
REPORTER(S)

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 BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
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 SEP 14 1951  
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 XR 837.062  
 September 11, 1951

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : HABANA  
 TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

430  
 DESP. NO. 1 Enc. Air Pouch  
 PRIORITY

REF : Habana 252 August 14, 1951 and Department's Informal Comment dated August 30, 1951 on Despatch 252  
 SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING EUSEBIO MUJAL'S CRITICISM OF ICFTU  
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Despite the fact that the Washington office of the ORIT strongly denied the possibility that Eusebio MUJAL could have made the statements attributed to him by a reporter of the newspaper Pueblo, the reporting officer is convinced that he did make those or at least very similar statements.

This conviction is based primarily on Francisco AGUIRRE's reply to the reporting officer's question as to what significance should be attached to the newspaper report. Aguirre did not deny that Mujal had made the statements as reported by Pueblo and said he felt Mujal should not have made the strong statements he did. He added that the statements should be disregarded since Mujal was incensed at the fact that Cuba's proposal to set up a twenty million dollar fund to aid the labor movements in underdeveloped areas was not approved at the Milan Congress, and had just been "sounding off" to the press.

The above is supported by Mario BARRERA, labor reporter for the newspaper Prensa Libre, who informed the Embassy press officer that he was present at the press conference on August 8 and that Mujal did make statements along the lines mentioned in the Pueblo account, although possibly not quite as "strong" as the Pueblo report.

Prensa Libre on August 9, 1951 published the following comments on Eusebio Mujal's statements regarding the Milan Congress. "The Cuban delegation which attended the Second ICFTU Congress returned from Milan completely disillusioned by developments at the meeting. Mujal revealed that the Cuban sponsored plan to assist the development of the labor movements behind the Iron Curtain and in underdeveloped areas had been put aside by the American and English labor leaders, who practically control the ICFTU and maintain a conservative policy in that organization. Reserving a final decision until he hears Francisco Aguirre's report on the meeting, Mujal believes that the Cuban labor movement will force a crisis in the ICFTU, which could affect the ORIT".

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From HABANA

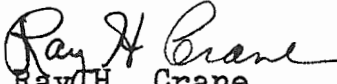
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Gustavo PARAPAR, a reporter for Avance, informed a member of the Embassy staff that the statements published in Pueblo were distributed to labor reporters by Manuel PIS of Pueblo, adding that he could not be certain that a press conference was held on August 8. However, according to Parapar, at a luncheon given by Mujal a few days later, Mujal told a group of reporters that the Milan Congress had been controlled by the American and English delegates; spoke of the Iranian oil question; referred to the American republics controlled by dictators and in general spoke of everything included in the Pueblo account. Parapar added, "It is well known that Manuel Pis would not publish anything which had not been said by Mujal, who is his 'guardian'. Pis could be considered Mujal's press agent".

Juan VIGUES Montes (Juan CRIOLLO), a columnist for El Pais and Excelsior, informed the same Embassy staff member it was true that Mujal made the statements attributed to him by Pueblo, but that his papers had not published them because it was not the papers' policy to "stir up trouble".

There is enclosed a clipping from Prensa Libre of August 9, 1951.

For the Ambassador:

  
Ray H. Crane  
Assistant Attaché

Enclosure:   
✓ Newspaper clippings

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## Opuesto el movimiento obrero a la política de subsidios en el problema del transporte urbano

Se reunió Eusebio Mujal con los periodistas que atienden el sector obrero, para informarles de las últimas actividades de la Conferencia de Trabajadores de Cuba, que está bajo su regencia. Principalmente se refirió a la cuestión del transporte urbano y al resultado del Segundo Congreso Obrero Mundial. Habló, asimismo, de salarios, del alto costo de la vida, de la cuestión campesina, de los técnicos económicos que ha contratado la CTC, de las ganancias de los Ferrocarriles Consolidados, de los planes de desarrollo de la indus-

tria de cemento El Morro, de la visita de "El Campesino" y Julián Gokin, de la detención de Jesús Artigas, del plan de casas baratas y de otros problemas de relativa importancia, saltando de un tema para otro con la celeridad que es peculiar en el máximo rector ceteceísta en la exposición de sus ideas.

No concretó Eusebio Mujal el punto de vista de los trabajadores en cuanto al candente problema del aumento de la tarifa de pasaje; pero, prácticamente, se declaró en favor de esa fórmula, al alegar que el movimiento obrero no quiere que se sostenga el transporte sobre la base del subsidio. Y luego anunció que la CTC, la FNOT (transportes) y los sindicatos de Autobuses y Omnibus Aliados asistirán a las reuniones de la mesa redonda, de la que tomarán parte también la FEU y algunas instituciones cívicas. El periodista interrogó al secretario general de la CTC, si el gobierno es partidario de la fórmula de aumento de pasaje y respondió:

—Pregúntale a Lancis...

### CRISIS EN EL MOVIMIENTO OBRERO INTERNACIONAL

Infirmó Mujal que la delegación cubana que asistió al II Congreso de la C.I.O.S.L., que estaba integrada por Aguirre, Cofiño, Hirigoyen, Rubiera, Martínez y Tellechea, ha regresado muy decepcionada, debido al desenvolvimiento de aquel evento. Reveló que el plan económico confeccionado por la CTC para ayudar la lucha sindical detrás de la Cortina del Hierro y levantar la de otros países menos desarrollados económicamente, fué desechado por los ingleses y norteamericanos que, prácticamente, controlan la Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres y mantienen una política conservadora en aquel organismo.

A reserva de escuchar el informe general que debe rendir Francisco Aguirre, presidente de la delegación, ante el ejecutivo de la CTC, cree Eusebio Mujal que el movimiento obrero cubano hará crisis en ese organismo, pudiendo afectar la O.R.I.T. (organismo regional americano).