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TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. - 1 Enc.

November 21, 1952

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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SUBJECT: Cuban Labor Leaders Disavow Argentine-Sponsored Labor Conference

Statements disavowing or discrediting the Argentine-sponsored inter-American labor meeting in Mexico were issued by Eusebio MUJAL, secretary-general of the Cuban Confederation of Labor (CTC), Angel COFINO, CTC executive board member and secretary-general of the electric plant workers' union, and Francisco AGUIRRE, secretary-general of the Interamerican Organization of Labor (ORIT). Mujal's and Aguirre's remarks as given to the Associated Press and a newspaper clipping which includes Cofiño's statement are enclosed.

As this is written no disciplinary action for CTC members attending the Mexico conference has been announced. An Embassy labor contact, however, reported that such action had been taken at the CTC's executive board meeting last Saturday. Mujal's statement indicated that this was anticipated.

Aguirre's brief comment may be ascribed to his attitude that to talk very much about the Argentine effort is to advertise it far beyond merit. He expressed this view to the local Associated Press correspondent when he called for comment on the Mexico meeting. The AP moved three stories based on the statements of Mujal and Aguirre on its wires in this hemisphere. These statements followed expressions of concern by the Embassy's labor officer over the attendance of five CTC members at a conference called in opposition to ORIT, an organization in which the CTC has taken a prominent role.

Further reactions by Cuban organized labor will be reported as they develop.

For the Ambassador:

Copies to: Amembassy, Mexico, D.F.
" Rio de Janeiro

Irvin S. Lippe
Irvin S. Lippe
Attaché

Enclosure: Press clippings

ISLippe:rc
REPORTER

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Mujal Raps Plan to Form Anti-U. S. Labor Unions

An Argentine-sponsored plan to organize an anti-United States labor federation in Latin America has been denounced by organized labor in Cuba as a "Peron maneuver."

Cuba's CTC (Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba), the nation's national labor federation, said yesterday it would take disciplinary action against five Cubans attending the meeting.

Eusebio Mujal Barniol, secretary general of the CTC, told newsmen he is "wholly opposed" to the proposed new organization and issued a statement condemning it.

Francisco Aguirre, secretary general of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (Organizacion Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores), a branch of the anti-Communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, told reporters:

"If that meeting in Mexico had as its purpose the freeing from imprisonment of great numbers of labor leaders now in Argentine jails, it would have the gratitude of the free peoples of all, of the Americas. The so-called congress of

'free workers', however, means nothing because in Argentina, which is sponsoring the meeting, there are many, labor leaders imprisoned."

Mujal's statement said the meeting in Mexico does not represent any Latin American confederation, except the CGT of Argentina.

He said sponsors of the meeting say it is for "organization against the imperialism of Moscow and Washington.

Basically, it is nothing more than a Peronist maneuver, trying to divide workers of Latin America. It charges that we workers, and especially Cuba's CTC, are at the service of the United States, that the American Federation of Labor, the CIO, and Lewis' miners, etc., are agents of the American State Department.

"This calumny is devised with the same kind of ranting that as that used by Communists, or other elements at the service of dictatorships which, in various kind of clothing, live in many countries of Latin America ..."

Mujal said the five Cubans in Mexico City meeting "do not represent the CTC."

He said they would be given a week to renounce their participation in the Argentine-sponsored group, or be "separated from organized labor."

He said disciplinary action is to be considered at a week-end meeting of the CTC Executive Council, "but I am sure the action will be approved, because we have always complied with our national agreements."

Fernando Perez Vidal, of the Transport Workers' Union, is head of the Cuban delegation in Mexico. It includes Placido Hernandez, a propaganda secretary of the Sugar Workers' Union.

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Contrario Cofiño a una Nueva Central Obrera Latinoamericana.

Niega que se Interesara por el Congreso que Están Celebrando en Ciudad México

Con relación al congreso que está efectuándose en Ciudad México, para constituir una central sindical latinoamericana, equidistante de la Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ORIT) y de la Federación Americana del Trabajo, (FAT), el señor Angel Cofiño, secretario general de la Federación Sindical de Plantas Eléctricas, Gas y Agua, ha formulado declaraciones fijando su posición al respecto.

Expresa el señor Cofiño que es incierto lo que se ha publicado de haber estado él en México para interesarse por ese congreso, porque es contrario por completo a los propósitos que animan a varios dirigentes obreros del hemisferio de constituir esa central sindical y, además, porque importantes conflictos proletarios nacionales le embargan toda su actividad por el momento.

El mencionado congreso, al que acuden delegados de Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, México, Cuba y de otros países americanos, se inspira en la doctrina peronista de la

"tercera posición", y por ese motivo las centrales sindicales oficiales, menos la argentina, no han reconocido la convocatoria, dejando en libertad de acudir a trabajadores y dirigentes que no representan el sentir mayoritario de las masas proletarias de Latino América.

Elecciones Textileras

En las elecciones que hoy efectuará el sindicato provincial de la industria textil, de la aguja y sus derivados, para renovar los cuadros dirigentes, lucharán tres candidaturas.

La número uno, lleva a la reelección en el cargo de secretario general al señor Rolando O'Farrill; la número dos al señor Bernardo Blanco, la militancia ortodoxa y la número tres, al señor Rolando Díaz Román, comunista.

Los comicios empezarán a las ocho de la mañana y terminarán a las diez de la noche, en el local del sindicato, San Nicolás número 620.

Como durante el proceso elec-

toral surgieron intensas pugnas entre los trabajadores partidarios de las tendencias políticas de los aspirantes a cargos directivos, el ministro de Trabajo doctor Saladrigas, dispuso que un inspector del ministerio presida y supervise las elecciones para evitar contingencias.

Ambulancia y Carro Fúnebre

Los trabajadores del central Báguanos, en Oriente, han adquirido una ambulancia y un carro fúnebre para servicio del sindicato,

según reportó a la FNTA el dirigente sindical señor Timoteo Montes Hernández.