

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
837.06/12-1951

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

992 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DESP. NO. DATE December 19, 1951

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

- 1 Enc.

Air Pouch
PRIORITY

DEC 20 1951
42

REF : 000183 Labor Developments

10-1 DEC 20 AM 10 29

For Dept.
Use Only

SUBJECT: Mujal Proposes World Labor Conference in Habana

R
E DEC
C 22
D
A
C E
T INFO
I REP
O DCR
N ARA
I OLI
N UNA
F COMM
O ECA
FRB
LAB
NLRB

Eusebio MUJAL, member of the Cuban Senate and secretary general of the Cuban Confederation of Labor, announced in the press that it is planned to call a world Labor Congress in Habana for next May 1. Agricultural regions, particularly those growing sugar, would be represented.

Most of the daily newspapers carried stories based on a statement released by the CTC (translation attached) which outlined the purposes of such a meeting. Newspaper treatment of the CTC proposal was friendly except for the Communist daily Hoy, which derided it as "pompous imperialist propaganda".

The CTC leader said that it was hoped that delegations of sugar, sisal, tobacco, coffee, rice, rubber and cacao workers, as well as seamen and dock workers from a number of countries can be brought together. The conference would strive to improve conditions for workers of colonial countries who earn very low wages and whose products compete with those of other regions where workers enjoy a higher standard of living.

The CTC announcement coincided with the departure of Cuban labor leaders for the United States to attend international conferences in New York and Washington. The New York conference was to discuss plans for a world sugar workers' Congress and it is presumed that the Cuban delegation would seek to have Habana set as the site for it. The Cuban labor leaders included Francisco AGUIRRE, secretary general of ORIT; José Luis MARTINEZ, secretary general of the FNTA sugar workers; Angel RODRIGUEZ, organizing secretary of the FNTA; Rafael GONZALEZ Villegas, FNTA; Felix PEREZ Gil, FNTA; Castulo CLEMARES, FOMN (maritime workers); and Sergio PONS, financial secretary of FOMN. The Washington meeting was an executive board session of ORIT.

Prominent American labor leaders including William GREEN of the American Federation of Labor, Phillip MURRAY, President of the CIO, and John L. LEWIS of the United Mine Workers are to be invited to the conference.

Hoy declared editorially that Mujal had called the Congress on

ISLippe:rc

REPORTER(S)

UNCLASSIFIED

PREPARATION TIME

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

This Document Must Be Returned To
DC/R
Central
Files
837.06/12-1951
7/3

LABOR ADVISER
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MESSAGE CONTROL

FEB 20 1952

FILED

8

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

orders of AFL Latin American Director, Serafino ROMUALDI, who was referred to as "a known gangster in the service of the United States Department of State". The newspaper further states that no solutions for the problems of sugar workers or anyone else can be possible from a conference called and organized by Mujal, Romualdi, etc., who are tools of the "Yankee Imperialists" who own the sugar mills, plantations, mines and ports.

For the Ambassador:

I. S. Lippe
I. S. Lippe
Attaché

✓
Enclosure: *att*
CTC News Release

u/m
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

Translation

CTC News Release

A Far-Reaching Event for all the Workers of the World
By Eusebio Mujal Barniol, Secretary-General of the CTC

The Free Syndical Organizations of the world have the intention of holding in Habana on the first of May 1952 a Congress that will have far-reaching effects upon the destiny of millions of workers and that will certainly become an implacable (or unappeasable) ram against exploitation in the colonial and semi-colonial countries where salaries and living conditions of agricultural and industrial workers impair human worth.

In the Congress suggested by the CTC to the International Confederation of Free Syndical Organizations, all of the regions growing agricultural products will be represented, particularly those where sugar is grown. From the most remote areas in Asia and Africa, Australia and New Zealand, from old Europe and from America will come for deliberation to the Cuban capital sugar, henequen, tea, tobacco, coffee, rice, rubber and cacao workers as well as maritime workers, including those from ports on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States.

Owing to the geographic breadth of the Congress and the workers who will be represented there, it is evident that the men who are most exploited and oppressed, with the exception of those who live and die behind the Iron Curtain for lack of freedom and means of subsistence, will raise their proletarian voices in Habana to tell the world with clarity that they are disposed to break the chains of exploitation that maintain their countries in a reprehensible state of economic and cultural backwardness.

The workers of countries dominated by rampant Communism will not actively participate in this event because their oppressor governments will not allow them to gain experience in the struggle and ideals of the workers who can freely meet against capitalistic exploitation and cry out their needs without fear of being jailed or murdered and adopt measures that will put an end to the ominous state in which they live.

We challenge the Communists to give liberty to the workers of colonial countries under their yoke, and to those who live in Asiatic countries to come to the Congress freely to recount their experiences. The Free Syndical Organizations will have only one condition: that the delegates from the countries dominated by the Russians be freely elected

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

at each plantation without the supervision and terror of the Communist Party.

The objectives of the Congress will be to impede producing areas from being converted into sugar cane plantations at wages of hunger and misery. The Congress will attempt to improve living conditions of the workers in colonial countries where exploiters pay them derisive wages in order more advantageously to compete with producing countries in other regions where workers enjoy a higher standard of living.

The opening of the Congress, as planned by the CTC, will be on May first, the workers' day of international struggle, in a public park and we hope that over half a million Cuban workers will fill the park in question.

In order that preparations be made for the said event and to point it to the attention of American workers, Francisco Aguirre, José Luis Martínez, Angel Rodríguez, Rafael González Villegas, Felix Pérez Gil, Castulo Clemares and Sergio Pons will leave tonight for the United States.

The CTC has estimated the cost of the Congress at half a million dollars, which will be paid for by the proletarian organizations that will participate in the event.

A new perspective of combat and welfare opens up to the peoples of colonial and semi-colonial countries at this International Workers' Congress that will be held in our city of Habana on May first 1952.

UNCLASSIFIED