

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : RESTRICTED

TO : Department of State

FROM : HABANA 400 August 18, 1950

REF : Embassy's despatch 1483 of June 29, 1950

SUBJECT : CUBAN LABOR UNIONS MOVE TO EXPEL COMMUNISTS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
PRIORITY MAIL ATTACHMENT
SEP 15 1950
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OFFICE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Subsequent to the outbreak of hostilities in Korea and the issuance of a statement by the non-Communist CTC (see Embassy despatch 19 of July 6) condemning the attack on the Republic of Korea and appealing to the Cuban workers to seek the complete eradication of Communism from Cuba, several labor unions have taken steps to remove known Communists from their ranks.

The National Federation of Electric, Gas and Water Plant Workers was the first to institute proceedings against known Communists (see despatch under reference). Formal dismissal proceedings have been registered with the Ministry of Labor against seven of the ten persons originally accused of Communist affiliations. That the seven workers accused of having Communistic leanings are definitely Communists appears to be confirmed by an editorial appearing in the Communist daily Hoy which states, "These workers are being dismissed from their jobs not because they have failed to meet required work standards, but because they are good Communists and refuse to agree with the political ideas of the company and the Yankee Embassy."

Other labor organizations which have adopted resolutions permitting the expulsion of Communists from the labor unions and in some cases have already instituted proceedings against workers are the following: 1) The National Federation of Medical Workers at a meeting held recently in Camaguey adopted a resolution providing for the expulsion of all Communists from the labor unions and in addition agreed to request the Government to outlaw the Communist Party and return the newspaper Hoy to the non-Communist CTC; 2) The General Syndicate of Warehouse Workers of Habana has reportedly informed the Ministry of Labor that all Communists are to be removed from the syndicate. The spokesman stated that the legal rights of the workers would be respected, but that all workers found guilty of adhering to anti-democratic ideals would be deprived of their syndical rights; and 3) The Executive Committee of the Woolworth Workers Union (this union includes all employees of ten-cent stores in Cuba) recently adopted a resolution which denies all syndical rights to Ada PEREYRA, described by the Committee as a notorious Communist agent.

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The resolution also provides that Sra. Pereyra shall be removed from her position as union delegate of the store in which she is employed. The Committee reported that, although all of its members were in complete accord on the question, a general assembly would be called so that all members of the syndicate would have an opportunity to express themselves and arrive at a majority ruling. The Committee added that its decision had been reached after due deliberation and consideration of alleged acts of sabotage and insubordination by the accused.

Comment:

It is encouraging to note that some labor leaders are apparently moving toward the ousting of Communists from labor unions. However, it is doubtful as to what degree of success will be achieved through the measures described above, since neither labor leaders nor Ministry of Labor officials are noted for enforcing resolutions.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

Ray H. Crane
Ray H. Crane
Assistant Attache

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