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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: July 23, 1953

SUBJECT: Communist influence in the Tobacco Workers Federation

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Eusebio Mujal, Secretary-general, Cuban Confederation  
of Labor  
Mr. Francisco Aguirre, ex-Secretary-general, CTC, ex-Minister  
of Labor, Pres., Hotel & Restaurant Retirement Fund  
Mr. John T. Fishburn, Labor Adviser, ARA

COPIES TO: AmEmbassy, Havana  
MID - Mr. Topping  
ARA - Mr. Spalding  
DRA  
ARA

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Mr. Fishburn asked Mr. Mujal why the Communists had been given 5 out of the 32 positions on the Executive Committee of the Tobacco Workers Federation. Mr. Mujal replied that the Communists and followers of Batista had cooperated in electing a number of their representatives to the national convention of the tobacco workers. Had the Batista followers cooperated with him, Mujal declared, he would have arranged to give them a certain number of seats on the Executive Committee. However, in order to show them who was boss, and to punish them for collaborating with the Communists instead of with him, Mujal arranged to have a limited number of Communists instead of Batista followers elected to the Executive Committee of the tobacco workers. He added that an additional reason for the arrangement was to smoke out Batista's relations with the Communists. He stated that Batista had cooperated with the Communists in the labor movement during Batista's previous Presidency and that he, Mujal, wondered how far such collaboration might go again. He added that when he spoke with President Batista regarding the election on the day following it, the President had not objected to the election of the Communists.

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ARA:JTTFishburn/cd

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