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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

837.062/6-2955

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1309

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 29, 1955  
DATE

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|                            |                 |                                  |
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| 5<br>For Dept.<br>Use Only | ACTION<br>ARA-4 | DEPT.<br>A/REP-2 RM/R-2 OLI-6 RI |
|                            | REC'D<br>7/7    | OTHER<br>LAB-5 USIA-10 OCB-2     |

SUBJECT: Membership of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC).

There is attached as an unclassified enclosure to this despatch a list of the national industrial federations making up the Confederación de Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC) and of the number of component unions and individual members in each federation.

This list was given to the Embassy by the International Department of the CTC. The Department said the list is made up from estimates given it by Eusebio MUJAL, Secretary-General of the CTC. The Department gave it as its confidential opinion that Mujal's estimates are quite accurate approximations and that the actual member of the CTC must be regarded as very close to the 1,336,900 claimed.

The Department suggested, again confidentially, that the following membership figures would be more accurate in the case of the unions mentioned:

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Construction Workers           | 75,000 net 150,000 |
| Railway Brotherhood            | 25,000 net 28,000  |
| Wheat Flour Processing Workers | 20,000 net 30,000  |
| Metallurgical Workers          | 16,000 net 35,000  |

In the case of the Maritime Workers, according to the International Department, the estimate is too low:

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Maritime Workers | 35,000 net 28,000 |
|------------------|-------------------|

The net balance would reduce the CTC total membership to 1,236,000, or just about 1,200,000 that the CTC has previously claimed as its membership.

It may well be speculated whether in a country of a population of 6,000,000 and a labor force of about 2,000,000 there could be a trade union movement of well over 1,000,000. Notwithstanding, and considering each of the memberships claimed by the individual federations, as well as bearing in mind that in the predominant sugar industry the workers are in fact virtually all organized, the conclusion must

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be that the figure of 1,336,900 members claimed by the CTC can be only moderately inflated and especially so by comparison with the inflation of union membership figures that is common in all, advanced as well as backward, parts of the world, and especially in Latin America.

Where in the attached table the Embassy has used the term "component unions", "local unions" or "locals" might have served quite accurately. In some cases, however, as for example in the case of the Electric Plant Workers, the "component unions" are called Provincial Federations. They do in fact carry out the functions of locals in the United States. Accordingly, the "national federations" may with a high degree of accuracy be regarded as what we should call in the United States national (or international) unions and the "component unions" as locals.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

*Juan de Zengotita*  
Juan de Zengotita  
First Secretary of Embassy

✓ Enclosure *att*

*PMW*  
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CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE CUBA  
(CONFEDERATION OF CUBAN WORKERS) (CTC)

| <u>Industrial Federation</u>                                                                                                                                 | <u>Number of<br/>Component Unions</u> | <u>Individual<br/>Members</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Federación Aérea Nacional<br>(National Aviation Federation)                                                                                               | 7                                     | 2,000                         |
| 2. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores<br>Azucareros<br>(National Federation of Sugar Workers)                                                               | 240                                   | 550,000                       |
| 3. Federación Sindical de Artes Gráficas<br>(Graphic Arts Labor Federation (Printing))                                                                       | 25                                    | 10,000                        |
| 4. Federación Nacional de la Industria Alimenticia<br>(National Federation of the Food Industry<br>(Food Processing))                                        | 36                                    | 32,000                        |
| 5. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de<br>Barberías, Peluquerías y Manicures<br>(National Federation of Barber Shop,<br>Haircutting and Manicure Workers) | 65                                    | 15,000                        |
| 6. Federación Sindical de Trabajadores<br>Bancarios<br>(Bank Workers Labor Federation)                                                                       | 6                                     | 4,000                         |
| 7. Federación Nacional de la Industria<br>del Calzado<br>(National Federation of the Shoe Industry)                                                          | 32                                    | 19,000                        |
| 8. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Cable-<br>gráficos y Radiotelegráficos<br>(National Federation of Cable and Radio-<br>telegraph Workers)              | 4                                     | 600                           |

CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE CUBA (CONT'D).

|     | <u>Industrial Federation</u>                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Number of<br/>Component Unions</u> | <u>Individual<br/>Members</u> |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.  | Federación Nacional Cinematográfica<br>(National Cinematographic Federation)                                                                                                       | 10                                    | 5,200                         |
| 10. | Federación Nacional de Obreros del Ramo<br>de Construcción<br>(National Federation of Workers in the<br>Construction Industry)                                                     | 101                                   | 150,000                       |
| 11. | Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del<br>Comercio<br>(National Federation of Commercial Workers)                                                                                 | 61                                    | 65,000                        |
| 12. | Federación Nacional de Espectáculos<br>(National Federation of Show Workers)                                                                                                       | 8                                     | 4,000                         |
| 13. | Federación Nacional de Trabajadores<br>Gastronómicos y sus Anexos<br>(National Federation of Gastronomical<br>Workers and Related Trades)                                          | 24                                    | 16,800                        |
| 14. | Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la<br>Ganadería é Industrias Derivadas<br>(National Federation of Workers in the<br>Cattle and Derivative Industries)                       | 65                                    | 22,000                        |
| 15. | Federación Nacional Hermandad Ferroviaria<br>(National Federated Railway Brotherhood)                                                                                              | 23                                    | 28,000                        |
| 16. | Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Elaboradores<br>de Harina de Trigo y sus Anexos (FORA)<br>(National Federation of Wheat Flour Processing<br>Workers and Related Trades (FORA)) | 48                                    | 30,000                        |

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CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE CUBA (CONT'D).

|                                                                                                                                                                                              | <u>Number of<br/>Component Unions</u> | <u>Individual<br/>Members</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Industrial Federation</u>                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       |                               |
| 17. Federación Nacional de Obreros Licoreros, Cerveceros, Neveros y sus Anexos<br>(National Federation of Liquor, Beer, and Refrigerator Workers and Related Trades)                         | 46                                    | 12,000                        |
| 18. Federación Obrera Marítima Nacional<br>(National Maritime Workers Federation)                                                                                                            | 197                                   | 28,000                        |
| 19. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria Metalúrgica y Similares<br>(National Federation of Workers in the Metallurgical Industry and Related Trades)                         | 27                                    | 35,000                        |
| 20. Federación de Trabajadores de las Industrias Forestales, Maderera, del Mueble y sus Anexos<br>(Federation of Workers in the Forestry, Wood, and Furniture Industries and Related Trades) | 42                                    | 8,500                         |
| 21. Federación Nacional de Musicos<br>(National Federation of Musicians)                                                                                                                     | 44                                    | 4,000                         |
| 22. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Medicina<br>(National Federation of Medical Workers)                                                                                           | 14                                    | 10,000                        |
| 23. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Petroleros<br>(National Federation of Petroleum (and Products) Workers)                                                                              | 23                                    | 27,000                        |
| 24. Federación Nacional de Profesiones Auxiliares de la Medicina<br>(National Federation of Professions Auxiliary to Medicine)                                                               | 20                                    | 9,000                         |

CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE CUBA (CONT'D).

| <u>Industrial Federation</u>                                                                                                                       | <u>Number of<br/>Component Unions</u> | <u>Individual<br/>Members</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25. Federación Sindical de Plantas Eléctricas<br>Gas y Agua<br>(Labor Federation of Electric, Gas and Water<br>Plants)                             | 6                                     | 7,300                         |
| 26. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Seguro,<br>Fianzas y sus Anexos<br>(National Federation of Insurance, Surety, and<br>Related Workers)  | 8                                     | 5,000                         |
| 27. Federación Nacional de Obreros del Transporte<br>(National Federation of Transport Workers)                                                    | 135                                   | 80,000                        |
| 28. Federación Tabacalera Nacional<br>(National Tobacco Federation)                                                                                | 184                                   | 98,000                        |
| 29. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la<br>Industria Textil y de la Aguja<br>(National Federation of Textile and Needle<br>Industry Workers) | 42                                    | 50,000                        |
| 30. Federación Sindical de Trabajadores Telefónicos<br>(Labor Federation of Telephone Workers)                                                     | 6                                     | 3,500                         |
| 31. Federación Nacional de Viajantes de la Medicina<br>(National Federation of Medical Traveling Salesmen)                                         | 7                                     | 2,000                         |
| 32. Federación Nacional de Vendedores y Auxiliares<br>(National Federation of Salesmen and Helpers)                                                | 6                                     | 4,000                         |
| TOTALES                                                                                                                                            | <u>1,572</u>                          | <u>1,336,900</u>              |

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