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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

837.062/7-1455

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Habana

35
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 14, 1955
DATE

REF : Embassy's despatch No. 1309 of June 29, 1955

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	REC'D	IN F OTHER	
	7/20		

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

Within a few days of preparing the reference despatch the Embassy received from the CTC a copy of Secretary-General Mujal's testimony before the House Agricultural Committee on pending sugar legislation. In it Mujal states (in translation from the Spanish): "we have 1,241,384 organized members, with 2,142 labor unions in all the Republic, and there is a superstructure of 33 national industrial federations, of which the most important is the National Federation of Sugar Workers, whose organized members add up to 483,579."

The Embassy took up with the CTC the disparity between these figures of Mujal's and those which the International Secretariat had given the Embassy a few days earlier. The latter had been given the Secretariat by Mujal himself. Mujal's secretary and the Office Chief of the International Secretariat said that there was little to choose between the figures -- one set was apt to be as accurate as the other. They thought Mujal had underestimated the number of Sugar Workers. If there were not all of 550,000 as the International Secretariat had said -- there were at least 500,000. Mujal had probably substantially overestimated the number of local unions or component unions. They could not account for as many as 1700.

Also, according to these two well-informed sources, there were not 33 national industrial federations as Mujal had said, but 32. However, discussion on this point brought out an error in the list furnished by the International Secretariat. The Federación Nacional de la Industrial Alimenticia no longer existed, nor, for that matter did the Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Elaboradores de Harina de Trigo y sus Anexos. (Nos. 4 and 16 respectively in the list sent with the reference despatch.) The first of these had merged with the second to form the Federación Obrera del Ramo de la Alimentación (familiarily known as FORA). However, from the International Secretariat's list there had been omitted the Federación de la Química Industrial. Although it is planned to merge this federation with the Commercial Workers, it is still

JdeZengotita/MGW

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in independent existence, and the number of federations is 32.

The two CTC officials suggested changes that could be made in order to bring the membership list given the Embassy earlier into closer harmony with Mujal's testimony. They were confident, however, that one list was as good as the other and that their observations just reported on Mujal's testimony were correct.

The changes suggested by the CTC officials are incorporated in a revised membership list for the CTC transmitted as an enclosure to this despatch.

The Embassy would like to repeat what it wrote in the reference despatch to the effect that it believes the CTC figures are not so greatly inflated as union membership figures in many parts of the world and especially in Latin America.

In this last respect users of the present despatch may be interested in making a comparison between the enclosed CTC membership list and the Cuban census figures confidentially made available to the Embassy and transmitted with Despatch 1255 of June 15, 1955. Such a comparison may give a clue to where there is or is not significant inflation in the CTC list. It suggests, for example, that among unions known to have organized practically all their fields, such as the Sugar Workers, Electrical Plants, and Bank Workers, there is practically no inflation. On the other hand, the comparison reveals that there must be very substantial inflation in the claims of the Construction Workers, Tobacco Workers, and somewhere among the Railway, Maritime, and Transport Workers, since the total of their three memberships far exceeds the census total for all transport workers in the country. In the case of the Tobacco Workers the inflation in the membership claimed is not as great as comparison with the census figures might suggest since the Federation includes tobacco agricultural as well as manufacturing workers. Substantial inflation there must nevertheless be in this Federation's claimed membership.

It would appear safe to conclude that the CTC actually approaches a membership of 1,000,000. Its official claim can be represented as that shown in the enclosure to this despatch, and only in respect of the number of local unions would that claim clash significantly with Mujal's before the House committee. Both claims, however, may be termed official.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:


Juan de Zengotita
First Secretary

✓ Enclosures 


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

<u>Industrial Federation</u>	<u>Number of Component Unions</u>	<u>Individual Members</u>
1. Federación Aérea Nacional (National Aviation Federation)	7	2,000
2. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Azucareros (National Federation of Sugar Workers)	272	500,000
3. Federación Sindical de Artes Gráficas (Graphic Arts Labor Federation(Printing))	25	10,000
4. Federación de la Química Industrial (Industrial Chemicals Federation)	23	10,000
5. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de Barberías, Peluquerías y Manicures (National Federation of Barber Shop, Haircutting and Manicure Workers)	65	15,000
6. Federación Sindical de Trabajadores Bancarios (Bank Workers Labor Federation)	6	4,000
7. Federación Nacional de la Industria del Calzado (National Federation of the Shoe Industry)	32	19,000
8. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Cable- gráficos y Radiotelegráficos (National Federation of Cable and Radio- telegraph Workers)	4	600
9. Federación Nacional Cinematográfica (National Cinematographic Federation)	10	5,200

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

<u>Industrial Federation</u>	<u>Number of Component Unions</u>	<u>Individual Members</u>
10. Federación Nacional de Obreros del Remo de Construcción (National Federation of Workers in the Construction Industry)	101	120,000
11. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Comercio (National Federation of Commercial Workers)	91	65,000
12. Federación Nacional de Espectáculos (National Federation of Show Workers)	8	4,000
13. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Gastronómicos y sus Anexos (National Federation of Gastronomical Workers and Related Trades)	30	16,800
14. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Ganadería é Industrias Derivadas (National Federation of Workers in the Cattle and Derivative Industries)	65	22,000
15. Federación Nacional Hermandad Ferroviaria (National Federated Railway Brotherhood)	23	28,000
16. Federación Orlera del Ramo de la Alimentación (Workers' Federation of the Food Industry)	63	30,000
17. Federación Nacional de Obreros Licoreros, Cerveceros, Neveros y sus Anexos (National Federation of Liquor, Beer, and Refrigerator Workers and Related Trades)	46	12,000

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

<u>Industrial Federation</u>	<u>Number of Component Unions</u>	<u>Individual Members</u>
18. Federación Obrera Marítima Nacional (National Maritime Workers Federation)	197	28,000
19. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria Metalúrgica y Similares (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 (Federation of Workers in the Forestry, Wood, and Furniture Industries and Related Trades)	42	8,500
21. Federación Nacional de Musicos (National Federation of Musicians)	44	4,000
22. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Medicina (National Federation of Medical Workers)	23	10,000
23. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Petroleros (National Federation of Petroleum (and Products) Workers)	23	27,000
24. Federación Nacional de Profesiones Auxiliares de la Medicina (National Federation of Professions Auxiliary to Medicine)	20	9,000
25. Federación Sindical de Plantas Eléctricas Gas y Agua (Labor Federation of Electric, Gas and Water Plants)	6	7,300

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

	<u>Number of Component Unions</u>	<u>Individual Members</u>
<u>Industrial Federation</u>		
26. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Seguro, Fianzas y sus Anexos (National Federation of Insurance, Surety, and Related Workers)	8	5,000
27. Federación Nacional de Obreros del Transporte (National Federation of Transport Workers)	135	80,000
28. Federación Tabacalera Nacional (National Tobacco Federation)	184	98,000
29. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria Textil y de la Aguja (National Federation of Textile and Needle Industry Workers)	42	50,000
30. Federación Sindical de Trabajadores Telefónicos (Labor Federation of Telephone Workers)	6	3,500
31. Federación Nacional de Viajantes de la Medicina (National Federation of Medical Traveling Salesmen)	7	2,000
32. Federación Nacional de Vendedores y Auxiliares (National Federation of Salesmen and Helpers)	6	4,000
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T O T A L E S	1,641	1,234,900

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