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23 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Guidance to Serafino ROMAUDDI for his Meeting with Eusebio MUJAL on 26 June to Discuss MUJAL's List of CTC Leaders (copy attached) and Answer MUJAL's Request for Comments as to Which of Them Might be Acceptable to FRD.

1. On 22 June Messrs. [redacted] of ICD called on Mr. Reichhardt, WH/4/PA, and requested assistance in giving guidance to ROMAUDDI for his discussion with MUJAL on 26 June of the attached list of CTC leaders, which was prepared by MUJAL for the purpose of determining from ROMAUDDI which of these leaders might be acceptable for inclusion in a labor front to function as part of the FRD. Mr. Reichhardt said he would like to review the background on this before giving them an answer.

2. On 23 June Mr. [redacted] met with Mr. Reichhardt and Miss Thorpe. With reference to MUJAL's talk of a labor front in connection with the FRD, Mr. Reichhardt said we had no knowledge of any plan for a labor front as such. Mr. Reichhardt referred to the agreement between ICD and WH/4 that there would be no official contact with MUJAL and ROMAUDDI's contact would be continued only for the purpose of monitoring, and that to the extent possible CIA assets would be used to negate MUJAL's activities. He also mentioned that Tony VARGNA had said he would talk to MUJAL from time to time in order to be informed of what MUJAL was doing, but he had no idea of including MUJAL, or any of his group, in the FRD complex. Mr. Reichhardt said he felt it must be assumed that MUJAL is aware of ROMAUDDI's connection with the U.S. Government and would, therefore, interpret ROMAUDDI's reply as official approval or disapproval. In view of the above, Mr. Reichhardt recommended that ROMAUDDI's response to MUJAL should be that the choice of labor leaders to be affiliated with the FRD is an FRD matter and would have to be decided by FRD leaders, but it was ROMAUDDI's personal opinion that none of the CTC leaders listed by MUJAL would be acceptable to the FRD because of their affiliation with the BATISTA regime. He suggested that if MUJAL pressed ROMAUDDI for an answer, he might tell MUJAL he should take the matter up with VARGNA.

3. Mr. [redacted] agreed with the above in principle and thought ROMAUDDI's reply to MUJAL should be along those lines. However, he brought up the matter of VARGNA's selection of Rafael OTERO, who is closely allied with MUJAL, to make a speaking tour of Latin America, and mentioned that VARGNA had previously indicated an interest in Manolo FERNANDEZ of the Artists Union. Both OTERO and FERNANDEZ are included on MUJAL's list. Mr. Reichhardt said he did not know VARGNA's reason for selecting OTERO for this tour, but since it was not to begin until 1 July, Mr. Droller would have time to discuss the matter again with VARGNA and take some action if it was decided that OTERO is too closely allied with MUJAL to be effective with Latin American labor movements. Mr. [redacted] remarked that OTERO is well known to labor movements in other Latin American countries, but he is not an effective speaker and is a known MUJALISTA.

Martha Thorpe
WH/4/Political Action

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Attachment:
List of CTC Leaders