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Authority State Letter 1/1/32By WMS NARA Date 7/24/98

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

San José, Costa Rica

No. 1373

March 29, 1933

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES
COSTA RICA

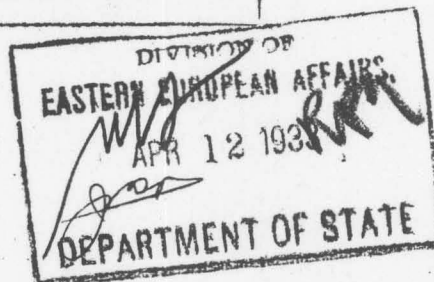
DIVISION OF
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

APR 6 1933

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

APR 15	FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK	Yes	No
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The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington

Sir:-

In continuation of despatch No. 1282 dated January 23, 1933, I have the honor to report the developments since that date in connection with the activities of the Communist Party and individual Communists in Costa Rica.

TRABAJO, the weekly newspaper of the Communist Party, is being published regularly and is now being circulated more freely. The paper is more outspoken than formerly on local political questions since the Party was able to elect two of its members to the

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Authority State Letter 1/4/82By WJ NARA Date 7/24/88

- 2 -

San José Municipal Council in the elections of last December, and the varied activities of Councilmen Braña and Fernández on behalf of the laboring classes are given much publicity. Coincidentally, there are more so-called "Polacos" than ever in Costa Rica.

There are transmitted herewith one copy each of 1/2/ the February 4 and 11, 1933 issues of TRABAJO, from which may be noted various topics of interest to the laboring element. Under the heading "Activities of the Party" on page 3 of the February 4th issue, the Provinces of Alajuela, Heredia, San José and Limón are mentioned as being active. The names of the Executive Committee of the Province of Alajuela are given, and it is stated that the Committee has promised to distribute 175 copies of each issue of TRABAJO in the Province. From Heredia comes the news that the Party is endeavoring to nominate a candidate to enter the next Congressional race.

In San José, the principal stronghold of the Party, night classes are being held in the headquarters to instruct members on the subjects of Marxism and anti-Imperialist Economy. These classes are said to be well attended by laborers, both men and women, and students. I have been informed by an American employed by the Costa Rican Government at the San Pedro Agricultural School that a large number of the students of that institution attend these classes and that many of the 18-year old boys are already well posted on Marxism, which

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- 3 -

they appear to understand thoroughly. This would indicate that those in charge of the instruction are capable teachers. It may be recalled, in this connection, that Carmen Lyra (Isabel Carvajal) is one of the most active Communist leaders in Costa Rica. She and other public school teachers are evidently the principal instructors of the night classes.

TRABAJO states that one Joaquin Calvo has organized the Communist Party in the Limon district, and that on February 6th last, the Secretary General, Manuel Mora Valverde, visited Port Limon for the purpose of definitely organizing that section of the Republic. This section of the country is inhabited principally by West Indian negroes, many of whom are now unemployed. I have asked Vice Consul Grain at Port Limon to make a report on labor conditions and Communism in his District.

There have also been reports that the Communist Mora has been organizing clubs in Puntarenas and other parts of the Republic, which is confirmed by the February 11, 1933 edition of TRABAJO (page 2) under "Activities of the Communist Party", where mention is made of clubs formed at Tres Rios, Desamparados, Heredia and Port Limon.

It is not difficult to understand the apparent headway made by the Communist Party in Costa Rica during recent months; the leaders have taken advantage of every opportunity to assist the unemployed when help was refused by other political parties and even by the Roman Catholic Church and

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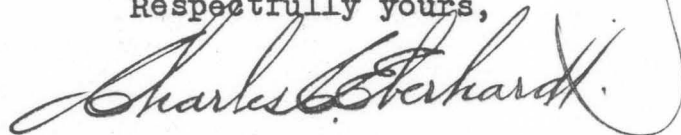
Authority State Letter 1/1/32By WPS NARA Date 7/24/98

- 4 -

the various Protestant missionaries. When individuals with grievances against employers call upon Government officials or others from whom they expect help they are told that nothing can be done in the matter, whereupon Communist leaders such as the Councilmen Braña and Fernández, and Manuel Mora Valverde volunteer to assist the workers in obtaining justice.

Judging from the recent activities of the Party and the apparent success of their efforts in organizing Clubs, it appears that a number of candidates of the Workers and Peasants Party will enter the campaign for the Congressional elections of February 1934, and it is not at all unlikely that several of these candidates will be successful in obtaining seats in the Legislative body.

Respectfully yours,



CHARLES C. EBERHARDT

Enclosures:-

1. One copy of TRABAJO of February 4, 1933;
2. One copy of TRABAJO of February 11, 1933.

800 - B.

1 Carbon Copies

Received F.P.

2 carbon out

BZ/BZ April 8 R.R.