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ACTION IO-15

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-01	SS-10
	OIC-02	AF-10	CIAE-00	EB-08	EA-10	DODE-00	H-01
	NEA-06	NSC-01	ARA-16	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-08	L-03
	LAB-04	PM-09	PA-01	STR-14	SIL-01	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	SPRS-01	/142 W.				

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R 171549Z DEC 82
 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497
 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMEMBASSY OSLO
 AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
 AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
 AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

Chile Project (#S199900030)
 U.S. Department of State
 Release Excise _____ Deny _____
 Declassify: In Part In Full _____
 Exemption(s) 1, 2

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USEC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, XM, CL, NS, VE
 SUBJECT: ICFTU COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON CHILE AND SURINAME
 LABOR SITUATION

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1. (C) SUMMARY. ICFTU'S LATIN AMERICAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD SPECIAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 15 AT BRUSSELS TO HEAR EXPELLED CHILEAN LABOR LEADER MANUEL BUSTOS AND DISCUSS WAYS TO STEP UP PRESSURE ON PINOCHET REGIME AND AID ORGANIZED LABOR THERE. COMMITTEE FAVORED INITIATION OF AN ICFTU CAMPAIGN USING BUSTOS BY PROGRAMMING HIM ON VISITS AROUND EUROPE AND TO U.S., AND POSSIBLY INCLUDING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SPAIN OR THE U.S. COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED SURINAME, RECOMMENDING THAT ICFTU REQUEST AN URGENT ILO MISSION, ORGANIZE A CONFERENCE ON SURINAME IN BARBADOS NEXT WEEK, AND CALL ON ALL AFFILIATES TO URGE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO EXERT PRESSURE AGAINST THE MILITARY REGIME IN SURINAME. COMMITTEE FINALLY EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE VENEZUELA BANK WORKERS UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) SPECIAL MEETING OF ICFTU'S COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA, CALLED TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE, DREW SOME 20 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT EUROPEAN AFFILIATES, A SMATTERING OF OTHER AFFILIATES (INCLUDING AFL-CIO, REPRESENTED BY AIFLD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILLIAM DOHERTY), AND THREE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS (FIET, MIF AND PSI).

3. (C) CHILE. FEATURED PARTICIPANTS WERE TWO CHILEANS:

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CNS PRESIDENT MANUEL BUSTOS, WHOSE EXPULSION FROM CHILE ON DECEMBER 3 HAD BEEN CATALYST FOR MEETING, AND ANEF PRESIDENT HERNOL FLORES, BELATEDLY INVITED TO ASSURE PARTICIPATION BY A LABOR LEADER ABLE TO RETURN TO CHILE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PARTICIPANTS THAT BUSTOS LED OFF DISCUSSION WITH AN ACCOUNT OF RECENT CNS ACTIVITIES--SPECIFICALLY NOTING NON-COMMUNIST/COMMUNIST LABOR SPLIT OVER ISSUE OF WHETHER TO SUPPORT POLISH WORKERS AND SOLIDARITY--AND DETAILS OF HIS EXPULSION. COMMITTEE, ECHOING RECOMMENDATION BY OCTOBER ICFTU MISSION TO CHILE, FAVORED CONTINUED SOLIDARITY AID TO CHILEAN TRADE UNIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROMOTE MAXIMUM UNITY. IT ALSO ADVOCATED A STEPPED-UP CAMPAIGN TO SPOTLIGHT THE ANTI-LABOR ACTIONS OF PINOCHET REGIME. IN THIS REGARD, SPANISH UGT REP (SIMON) PROPOSED HOLDING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILE IN EITHER MADRID OR SOMEWHERE IN U.S. COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON HIS IDEA AND URGED SECRETARIAT TO STUDY ITS PRACTICABILITY.

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4. (S) IN ADDITION, IT WAS DECIDED TO PROGRAM BUSTOS AROUND EUROPE TO SPEAK BEFORE UNION GROUPS, GIVE PRESS INTERVIEWS AND MEET WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. AFL-CIO REP OFFERED TO ARRANGE COMPARABLE PROGRAM FOR HIM IN U.S. SEVERAL EUROPEANS (FROM ITALIAN CISL AND UIL AND SPANISH UGT) OFFERED TO ARRANGE RESIDENCE FOR BUSTOS IN THEIR COUNTRY; HE INDICATED THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME AN EXILE BUT HOPED TO RETURN TO CHILE SOON. IN CONTRAST TO ICFTU'S ASSISTANCE TO A SECOND EXPELLEE (A COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER NAMED HECTOR CUEVAS) ON GROUNDS THAT HE WAS IN DISTRESS, AFL-CIO REP REPORTEDLY TOLD COMMITTEE THAT AFL-CIO WOULD AID ONLY THOSE TRADE UNIONISTS WHO SUPPORT WALESIA AND POLISH WORKERS.

5. (S) SURINAME. [Handwritten mark]

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AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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7. (U) PRESS CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING MEETING, ICFTU-
ORGANIZED PRESS CONFERENCE ATTRACTED 14 JOURNALISTS,
MOST OF WHOM APPEARED TO SPECIALIZE IN LATIN AMERICAN
AFFAIRS. BUSTOS DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS
FOR ORGANIZED LABOR IN CHILE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES

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OF HIS EXPULSION. ALTHOUGH IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE OUT-
SET THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED SURINAME AND
VENEZUELA, NO QUESTIONS WERE POSED ABOUT EITHER.

8. (2) COMMENT: IF MEETING SERVED NOTABLY AS SPRING-
BOARD FOR NEW ICFTU CAMPAIGNS ON BEHALF OF TRADE UNIONS
IN CHILE AND SURINAME, IT ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A
HELPFUL FOLLOWUP TO THE RECENT ICFTU MISSIONS IN SOUTH
AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEETING IN MEXICO IN NARROWING
EXISTING DIFFERENCES AND ADVANCING THE INTEGRATION OF
THE AFL-CIO IN THE ICFTU'S EGGSHELL-SENSITIVE AREA OF
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. AFL-CIO REP DOHERTY TOLD
LABATT LATER THAT HE HAD BEEN MADE TO FEEL WELCOME BY
THE GROUP AND HAD ENCOUNTERED A GENERALLY POSITIVE,
UPBEAT ATTITUDE IN THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS. HIS
FINDING IS A SHARP CONTRAST TO REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
SESSIONS IN PAST YEARS (WHEN SOME EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS
WERE KNOWN TO HAVE INDULGED IN IDEOLOGICAL AND ANTI-
AMERICAN POSTURING), AND PROBABLY REFLECTS AN UPGRADED
ASSESSMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S IMPORTANCE BY ITS EUROPEAN
MEMBERS NOW THAT THE AMERICANS ARE PRESENT. THE TEST
OF THE NEWFOUND HARMONY IN BRUSSELS ON LATIN AMERICAN
ISSUES, HOWEVER, WILL BE THE EXTENT OF ITS RESONANCE IN
THE VARIOUS UNION HQS. OF ICFTU AFFILIATES IN EUROPE AND
LATIN AMERICA.
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