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WAR DEPARTMENT

War Department General Staff
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

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SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC SITUATION -- April 1-15, 1942.

A total of 1,193 reports were examined during subject period. Summaries of the domestic situation contain no information which is not based on two or more reliable reports.

I. SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

1. Communist.

Distr:

- G-2:
- 1st Army & E.T.O.
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- 3rd Army
- 4th Army
- 2nd Army Corps.
- C.A.'s 1-9
- W.D.C.
- P.C.D.
- P.R.D.
- H.D.
- Chief, I. Group
- Chief, A. Int.
- O.P.D.
- Army Ground Forces
- Army Air Forces
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- File

Reports from widely separated parts of the country strongly indicate that the Party is intensifying its drive to strengthen its position on all key fronts under the protective cloak of the war-created alliance with Russia.

a. Immediate Objectives.

In striving to gain as complete control as possible, the Communist Party has laid down the following policies for adherence by its members:

(1) Membership.

A drive for membership is to be made, but orders are that selection must be painstaking, involving recommendations by three Party members for each new convert and an investigation of the past five years of the prospective member's life.

(2) Propaganda.

At the same time, as great a sympathy as possible for the Communist cause is to be created among all classes in the United States. Speakers are to appear before any groups which will tolerate them. Communist literature is to be given an even broader distribution than before. The teaching of Russian in schools is to be advocated.

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(3) Victory Clubs and Trade Unionism.

The trade union policy of the Party line is to take advantage of the trade union workers' patriotism by having them join Victory Clubs, where discussion of war policies and the fight against Fascism can be carried on. The leaders feel that such clubs hardly can be attacked by the Government at present.

(4) Infiltration into Armed Forces and Civilian Defense.

With Russia as a war ally, the Party expects that it will be possible for more members of the Young Communist League and younger Party members to get into the armed forces. They are to become model soldiers and sailors and are to be handled by a special Party setup which will always remain a secret group. It is expected that Communists in the armed forces will "know what to do" for the Communist cause when the time comes.

Imperative orders that the Party members join home and civilian defense organizations are continuing to be issued and followed.

b. Continuing Policy.

(1) Negro.

The Communist Party has been more than gratified with the success of its Negro discrimination drive. There is the feeling now that the movement has been given sufficient momentum to carry it along, with only an occasional push by the Party should there be evidence of lagging. Fear was even expressed that agitation caused by charges of discrimination may grow too rapidly and create an explosion before the Party is ready for its exploitation.

(2) Shipping.

Claims are being made by the Waterfront Section of the Communist Party to a membership of over 3,000 who are at large and on ships at this time. This does not include licensed personnel or radio operators. Plans have been set forth whereby ship units of Party members will be on a graduated scale in proportion to the total size of the ships' crews. In this way, the security of the Party men will be protected as they will not be so conspicuous on smaller ships.

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c. Ultimate Aims.

The Communist Party in the United States is making provisions for action in the event that Russia does not emerge victorious from the war.

The Party appears to be more interested in the preservation of a Communist Internationale than in that of the Soviet Government.

The Party line now being formulated indicates that the Party has not swerved from its primary purpose of eventually overthrowing the Government of the United States by revolution. It has recommended that its members familiarize themselves with the "fifth column" tactics of the Axis powers for future use. The new line, in addition, looks to a possible collapse of Russia as the fountainhead of the world order and aims to secure for itself the position of leader in the Communist Internationale.

2. Nazi.

a. Submarines.

Reports continue to be received of shore-submarine contact attempts along the Atlantic coast. The investigation of these circumstances has been intensified.

The more recent of these reports have been concerned with lights along the shore. Two men were arrested on suspicion for igniting a red flare near Narragansett Pier.

b. Polish Front.

Continuing with their undercover activity, it is indicated that German agents in the United States are striving to establish a Polish "front" through subsidizing a Polish movement and by using a Polish "cover" for a meeting place. Efforts may be directed at causing unrest among Polish-speaking groups.

3. Japanese.

a. Exploitation of Negroes.

Japanese activity to alienate the loyalty of the Negroes, especially selectees, is being continued with appeals to the Negroes that they have no reason to fight for the United States, as the Japanese are a brother colored race seeking to liberate all colored races throughout the world.

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4. Fascist.

Negative Report.

5. Falange.

Falangist activity continues along lines previously set forth; namely, under the cover of their diplomatic immunity as representatives of a neutral country, the Falangists are able to carry on work previously performed by Axis agents who are now hampered by their countries' being at war with the United States.

6. Facility Damage.

No positive evidence of organized sabotage in facilities vital to the war effort has been noted during the period April 1 to 15, 1942.

Several more fires have occurred on the property of the Southern Pacific lines near Miland, California, since the two wooden trestles on the main line were destroyed on March 29, 1942. The later incidents involved small buildings and bridges on branch lines of the railroad and are under investigation.

It is probable that, had the starting of these fires been motivated by a serious attempt to sabotage transportation, more important structures would have been affected. A strange coincidence is that in each case two structures, very close to each other, were burned.

II. LABOR

1. Special Situation.

Labor difficulties have interfered very little with War Department procurement during the past two weeks. There was one strike at the Fall River Spinning Association, involving approximately 17,000 employees, as a result of the National Labor Relations Board's refusal to reconsider previous decisions on union policy in the Fall River, Massachusetts plant on a matter which had been regarded as settled. The strike ended Monday, April 6, the men returning to work the next day.

2. Policy Trends of Organized Labor.

There is continued evidence that John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, intends to form a third

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union. Six officials of the United Mine Workers of Denver, Colorado, and two District Presidents of the same union in Kentucky resigned on April 6 and 10 respectively, in protest against attacks made by CIO executive board members and other officials on John L. Lewis. It is of interest to note in connection with this that the United Mine Workers are making a drive for the organization of New England dairymen under the United Mine Workers' banners. Harry Bridges, a probable collaborator of Lewis in the formation of any third union, is directing a drive through the CIO for joint management and labor committees. The unions believe the war will make possible additional organization of labor with the goal of labor controlling the legislative bodies and an established Governmental policy of joint management of industry by labor and capital. Reports of Communist infiltration into the United Automobile Workers' union in Detroit, Michigan, indicate that this organization may be easily persuaded to join Lewis in any break he may make with the CIO.

The rank and file of labor, however, is evidencing an increased willingness to make sacrifices necessary to win the war and is showing nothing but loyalty to the United States. The Massachusetts CIO has announced a drive to encourage its alien members to become citizens.

The resolve of the Communists to gain control of Civilian Defense Organizations is indicated by the continued spread of the movement originated in Harris County, Texas, for the formation of an Industrial Defense Corps.

3. Estimate of the Situation.

There is reason to believe there will be no immediate interference with War Department production, judging from increased public interest in the effect labor disputes have upon war production and in the agitation for more rigid labor control, coupled with the apparent willingness of labor to cooperate, as evidenced by the lack of significant strikes during the past two weeks.

However, should the present CIO and United Mine Workers breach widen and a third union be established, jurisdictional disputes would undoubtedly increase. No great amount of cooperation from this possible third union could

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be expected, as it would probably be anti-Roosevelt, and possibly anti-war, under the leadership of John L. Lewis.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

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