

Also we were getting some good contacts in the army with the recruitments that took place all which shows that the thing was turning more and more in our favor. I don't know what happened, how the thing progressed after I left there.

The Politburo that was elected at that Plenum does not exist any more, neither does the C. C. because those members of the Central Committee that were elected--only 3 of them were left three or four months after that. They either quit or something like that, or were expelled, so that we were continually replacing them by a method of cooptation of new forces that were developed. The same thing in the Politburo, so by the time I left there was only one member left of the CC and the Politburo that was the Secretary of the Party. We had developed very good elements in the Politburo. I would give training there about 4 hours a day for 2 weeks and train a group of 7 each time till we had about 40 organizers.

There was one splendid comrade developed there, a Trade Union leader. He gave day and night to the Party. He was a good speaker, he knows the life of the workers. Inside of about 3 months he was the most popular of our leaders in Bogota. He is a carpenter. He had a typical look of a proletarian with scars on his face, etc. We developed a good number of organizers and speakers in the Colombian Party, they are born speakers there. So much so that in our manifestations the bourgeois would make remarks,--"what is happening, they don't need us anymore," and of course the workers liked that very much. They were accustomed to have the lawyers, doctors and here for instance we had about 15 who came from the working class and 5 of them were peasants. Among the Indies we also made much headway. We had one comrade traveling in very difficult territory where he had to travel on foot or muleback. We established good contacts with Indies. So that part of the work also made considerable progress. We made a recruitment drive among the Indies. I don't know whether it was correct to restrict recruiting but I was afraid to get too many raw elements in the Party as it was the Party was growing fast enough. We could not develop and handle all the members. This gives you an idea about the inner struggles and so forth.

All these organizers that I developed, that is the principle organizers, just the fellows that I thought we could really trust, I gave them some theory on military science because over there in these types of countries as you know, one of these goddam so-called revolutions is always apt to occur. Differences are easily fought out with guns and the situation as I said before is very staky. The Liberals are losing ground. There was a certain disintegration going on. The conservatives were getting more and more militant and a section of the Conservatives were a sort of left wing fascist group. There was disintegration in both parties one could not predict there what would happen in 6 months. By the time I left we emphasized very much the formation of defense groups and in certain places we had defense groups which were operating in manifestations and often our defense groups had rifles or revolvers. From the days of the old socialist revolution in the majority they manufactured many arms and the bourgeois even distributed them amongst themselves, part of these arms are hidden away in the mountains, etc. and our comrades themselves for instance the Indies they have arms hidden in the mountains and even in the cities. For instance in Geradote there are rifles, and revolvers enough to equip a little bunch which in a favorable time could do quite something because it is a small town with about 40,000. So for military work,--guerilla groups, etc. there is even some equipment there.

Now as for the situation in the various parts. The best organization is still in Bogota. We directed the working class there best. We liquidated many of the so-called reformist organizations, that is we got the workers over to us, even the Liberal organizations of the working class composition that were all as old as 10 years, we got them,-- like the building trades workers, etc. Our policy had such an effect on the workers that we could work into any working class organization and take it. They would not even try to refuse our comrades the floor. We also had an attractive policy towards the petty-bourgeoisie were not so hostile to us which helped the entire proposition along. Around Bogota we established contacts in many important plantations, so that our contract with the peasants there is not bad. In Neiva a totally agrarian area with no industry at all we have relatively good organization among the peasants plantation workers and among the Indies. We have many districts where there are no proletarians, wherever there are just artisans, petty

bourgeoisie and a sprinkling of something you could call workers. *William*