

4-FBI



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REPORT NO. [redacted]

DATE DISTR. 16 September 1971

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI [redacted]

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SUBJECT Formation of a Special Commission To Advise Archbishop Luis Chavez y Gonzalez on Political Matters

ACQ [redacted]

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SOURCE [redacted]

1. With the consent but not at the specific request of Archbishop Luis ~~C h a v e z~~ ~~y~~ Gonzalez, a committee was formed during 16-19 August to advise the Archbishop on political matters. It will be the function of this commission to analyse the position of the Catholic Church in El Salvador within any given political context, to advise the Archbishop as to steps which should be taken with reference to the political situation in question, and to take agreed upon political action in defense of the Catholic Church. A chief concept of the committee is that it should carry out political action which the local Catholic Church, alone, is too prudent to initiate.

2. The following are the members of the commission:

A. Father Jan De ~~P l a n c k e~~, a local Belgian Catholic priest.

B. Francisco ~~D i a z~~, a professor at the University of El Salvador Faculty of Law.

C. Antonio ~~O r e l l a n a~~, Director of the Center of Popular Studies and Advancement of the People.

D. Guillermo Manuel ~~U n g o~~, Secretary General of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

ad
Salvador

Nat. Rev. Sect.

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16 SEP 29 1971

E. Pablo Mauricio ~~Alvergue~~, Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC).

51 OCT F. Antonio ~~Diaz~~, owner of a prominent advertising firm.

G. Roger ~~Velasquez~~ Valle, a local Baptist minister.

H. Father Fabian ~~Amaya~~.

I. Juan Ricardo ~~Ramirez~~ Rauda, Secretary for Ideology of the PDC and a founder of local Catholic Action.

3. The first meeting of the as yet unnamed commission was held on 19 August at the offices of the University Catholic Center (CUC). Diaz, Velasquez, and Amaya were not present for the meeting. Nothing of any significance was accomplished except that it was clearly recognized by all present that there was no assurance that the local Church hierarchy would accept the commission's recommendations on any given subject. Several members of the commission, particularly Father De Plancke, felt that Alvergue and Ungo should not have been chosen as members since they have a tendency to be too theoretical and academic in their views and might mire down commission discussions in hair-splitting arguments. Both Alvergue and Ungo did display this tendency to some extent at the meeting.

4. Comment: Just what this commission will come to remains to be seen. Even its members are not sure that it will be able to accomplish much. The formation of this commission appears to represent an effort by Archbishop Chavez y Gonzalez, without excessive commitment on his part, to obtain the best available political advice from persons basically associated with the opposition to the present Government.) (b)(1)
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5. Dissem: State, Defense Attache, CINCSO. (b)(1)
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