

Intelligence Information Report



WARNING NOT SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

Classified by Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category SB (1)(2). Impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~

Communist Party

DATE DISTR. 4 April 1975

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

SUBJECT Continued Conflict between Communist Groups and the Rector at the University of El Salvador over the Recent Crisis in the Faculty of Sciences and Humanities

ACQ

SOURCE

1. Comment: On 3 January 1975 Arturo S a l a z a r Siguenza, acting Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Humanities at the National University of El Salvador (UES), announced that university contracts would not be renewed in his faculty, the largest at the UES, for seven professors who did not fulfill legal accreditation requirements, one of whom was Renan A l c i d e s Orellana, the Chairman of the Journalism Department. The journalism teachers immediately went on strike in support of their department head and this eventually led to walkouts by teaching personnel in the other departments and a halt to academic activity in the entire faculty. Not having reached a solution by mid-February, the matter was turned over to the acting Rector Carlos A l f a r o Castillo. After the resignation of Alcides and a series of publicized protests and attacks by student leaders and rebuttals by the Rector, the issue was finally resolved on 28 February when Alfaro agreed to return the unaccredited professors to their jobs on special contracts or in other acceptable positions in which they would meet legal requirements. Normal activities in the faculty resumed during the week of 3 March 1975.)

2.

3. Although the crisis in the Faculty of Science and Humanities technically has been resolved, this faculty has not been able to return completely to its normal academic activities.

APR 24 1975
~~SECRET~~

REC-40

64-200-226455

APR 16 1975

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----------------------------------|
| STATE | DIA | NSA | CRS | (For) | Distribution see final paragraph |
| | | FBI | | | |

Copy to MEXICO
by routing slip for
 info action
date 4-16-75
by V. [Signature]

D74

64-200-226

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

The two-month conflict opened the door for student protests against the UES administration and the Communist-controlled General Association of University Students (AGEUS) does not plan to back down on its demands to get rid of the acting Rector and certain other university officials whom they consider servants of an extreme rightist sector of the government.

4. AGEUS leaders, guided by the PCES, have a plan of action to force Alfaro out of office. They claim they already have a petition signed by several thousand university students requesting the removal of Alfaro from the vice-rectorate. AGEUS plans to organize demonstrations and meetings and to paint walls on the UES campus to publicize the students' alleged repudiation of Alfaro and to demand his resignation. They also plan to make telephone calls requesting his resignation and to boycott the activities of the rectorate. As long as Alfaro remains on campus, AGEUS leaders assert there will be a situation of conflict and turmoil which will not be in the interest of the Salvadoran Government.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

6. What may seem to have been simply a problem of an academic strike in the UES Faculty of Sciences and Humanities in fact had much deeper political roots, namely the struggle of the Communist-inspired student movement to recover internal control of the university. Every move made by the professors on strike was a result of pressure by the student leaders. These pressures led to irrational attitudes on the part of both the UES administration as well as the teachers. Student groups openly challenged the decisions of the administration to stand by legal requirements for employment and labeled acting Rector Alfaro and other administrators as instruments of the government.

7. While leftist student leaders of all sectors spoke out unitedly against Alfaro in demonstrations, marches, in the newspaper and on television, the student sector in general is very divided. This division was notable during the strike as the Soviet line Communist Youth's University Action Front (FAU) was struggling to outdo the more radical leftist groups in the race for campus leadership. Less than ten per cent of the student body responds to any degree to calls for meetings, demonstrations, protests, etc., organized by political groups on campus. Leaders of AGEUS and the Student Association of the School of Science and Humanities (SECH) are subservient to FAU and the PCES but FAU's influence has diminished greatly in recent months and it did not play a major role in solving the problem of renewing teaching contracts. The upsurge of the more radical and vociferous Salvador Allende United Student Revolutionary Front (FUERSA) and FAU's loss of the Law School election in December 1974 have contributed to reducing FAU's prestige on campus.

8. High-level PCES leaders have revealed privately that most of the vociferous student protest in this matter was initiated by FUERSA. The PCES, with no control over FUERSA, labels FUERSA leaders "ultra leftists" and claims FUERSA has close ties with the rural based Unified Popular Action Front (FAPU) and the alleged terrorist group called the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP). FAU leaders claim that the ultra leftists, mainly FUERSA, tried to exacerbate the conflict over contract renewal in order to cause a

5
4
3
2
1

5
4
3
2
1

~~SECRET~~

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

~~SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

split between the university authorities and the professors without concern over the possibility that it could lead to another closing of the university by the government. The student-led activities gave an impression of spontaneity and it was difficult to observe what hand (or hands) were actually moving the controls.

9. (Embassy Comment: Alfaro and his supporters, including Salazar Siguenza, appear to have badly miscalculated. Although their legal case was sound, they have not been able to remove from the campus those professors whom they view as most objectionable (Their principal targets were: Eduardo C a m p o s y Reales, a graduate of the Soviet Union's Lomonosov University; Dr. Reginaldo Antonio H e r n a n d e z Viscarra, a graduate of the Soviet Patrice Lumumba University, and Oscar Napoleony O s t o r g a, a graduate of Buffalo University, all known collaborators with leftist student groups.) At the same time, the Acting Rector failed to remove the Sciences and Humanities Dean, Rene V a q u e r a n o, against whom the university had pressed charges for his role in the illegal appointment of some of the above professors. Despite an open and shut legal case (San Salvador A-161, November 22, 1974), the charges against Vaquerano were dropped in February for lack of evidence, perhaps because of pressure from government officials. Vaquerano was reportedly supported unanimously by the deans of the university's other schools, all of whom are guilty of the same illegal practices. For Alfaro, the defeat on two fronts is serious, demonstrates his lack of political skill and further complicates his efforts to be elected rector.)

10. Dissem: Embassy, DEFATT at San Salvador.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

5
4
3
2 S E C R E T
1

5
4
3
2
1

FORM 1A-3 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

CONTINUATION SHEET

(2)