



Intelligence Information Report

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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[Redacted] (b)(1)
[Redacted] (b)(3)

DATE DISTR. 15 March 1974

COUNTRY El Salvador/Honduras

DOI

[Redacted]

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SUBJECT Status of Communist Party Activities at the University of El Salvador

Copy to Mechos
by routing slip for
 info action
date 3-27-74

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SOURCE

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1. Since the ~~University Action Front (FAU)~~, Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) student front, won the student elections at the University of El Salvador (UES), the FAU has continued its efforts to expand PCES control of the UES student body. Communist leaders are pleased that since the reopening of the university in September 1973, the FAU has become the predominant student group, whereas before the July 1972 closing of the university it was a relatively unknown entity.

2. At the beginning of the school year PCES objectives at the UES included gaining control of the student organization within each school and of the university-wide General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS). During the student elections in the various schools, the only challenge to the FAU was in the law school where a relatively conservative group consisting mostly of older students won 40 per cent of the vote. The group subsequently lost momentum and failed to play a significant role in the January 1974 AGEUS elections. The PCES feels it has met its objectives for resuming control of the student organizations.

3. [Redacted] Comment: The Salvadoran Government continues to exercise control over the teaching and administrative staffs of the UES. Juan A l l w o o d Paredes, the rector, is the government's principal representative. The government's hand is also evident in the filling of teaching positions and in the appointment of faculty members loyal to the government to positions on special study groups. The government also controls the guard and maintenance forces.)

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4. Carlos Arias, a former member of the Provisional Student Council (CEP), recently organized an extreme leftist group called the Salvador Allende United Student Revolutionary Front (FUERSA) which is challenging the FAU. FUERSA recently forced Doctor Bloch, Dean of the School of Medicine, to resign. This move had the reluctant support of the FAU after FAU leaders realized that if they did not support the move as well as the student strike of February 1974, FUERSA would appear to be the more dynamic and revolutionary of the two organizations. Although the FAU considered Bloch unsympathetic and incompetent, FAU leaders had no interest in trying to force him to resign because they believed his replacement would be of the same conservative ideology. FAU further believes that although Bloch's resignation was a small political victory for FUERSA, the resignation was not necessary to the PCES plan to regain domination of the UES. Since the FAU and FUERSA are now competing for the loyalty of leftist students, FUERSA's increasingly militant image puts pressure on the FAU to shift its tactics. Although the FAU considers FUERSA more of a nuisance than a threat, the FAU is interested in compromising and trying to work together with FUERSA. An indication of FUERSA's true strength could come in the May 1974 student elections in the School of Medicine where FUERSA's strength is concentrated among the fourth year students and in the School of Economics.

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5. FAU leaders fear that FUERSA, fresh from the victory over Bloch, may see some advantage in a similar attack on Allwood. If this happens FAU could again be forced to make a choice between two equally unattractive courses of action. FAU is generally satisfied with Allwood and believes that he would permit the liberalization of many aspects of UES administration favored by the PCES if he were permitted a free hand by the GOES.

6. The first of a series of meetings between AGEUS and the Honduran Federation of University Students (FEUH) was held on 24 February 1974 on the bridge between Honduras and El Salvador. AGEUS plans to follow up this meeting with similar ones in Honduras and El Salvador including participation with FEUH in a meeting of Central American student organizations in Costa Rica in May 1974. Jorge Shafick Handal, Secretary General of the PCES, arranged these meetings with Dionisio Ramos Bejarano, leader of the pro-Soviet faction of the Communist Party of Honduras (PCH/S). Handal said that his objective in arranging the meetings is to help reduce tensions between Honduras and El Salvador and to give support to a peaceful settlement of the dispute between the two countries. Handal believes that the continuing attention and concern with this dispute is distracting the attention of the people in both countries from the need for social change. Handal believes that especially in Honduras, a settlement of the dispute could lead to significant progress in the area of social changes favored by the PCES and PCH. Handal also expects the meetings between the two student groups to unify and strengthen the whole Central American Communist-dominated student government.

7. [] Dissem: Embassy at San Salvador: []

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