



Intelligence Information Report

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Communist Party

DATE DISTR. 29 June 1970

COUNTRY El Salvador

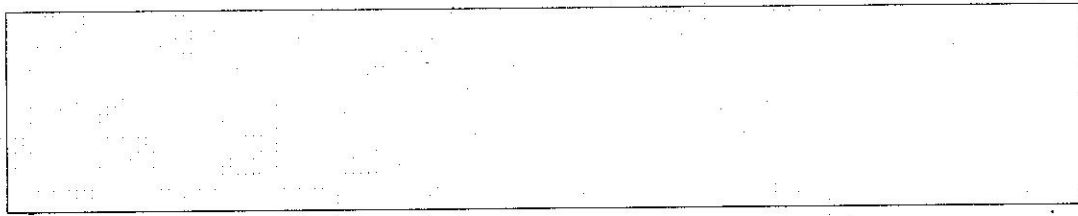
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SUBJECT Political Discussion Between Leaders of The Christian Democratic Party and the Communist Party of El Salvador

REC-94

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CQ
SOURCE



1. Jorge Shafick ~~H~~ Handal and Raul ~~C~~ Castellanos ~~Figueroa~~, leaders of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES), met on 10 June with Pablo Mauricio ~~A~~ Alvarez, Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC); Juan Ricardo ~~R~~ Ramirez ~~R~~ Rauda, PDC deputy and leader of its National Assembly faction; Abraham ~~R~~ Rodriguez, PDC leader and presidential candidate in 1967; and Mario Ramon Ignacio ~~Z~~ Zamora, PDC deputy and youth leader. They held a wide-ranging political discussion on the internal situation of El Salvador. Both groups conducted the meeting in a guarded fashion and avoided concrete proposals about necessary remedies. Handal said the PCES was concerned about the lack of initiative among the Salvadoran "progressive" parties. He pointed out that the Government of El Salvador (GOES) was penetrating various sectors of society in order to control the progressive parties' actions and manipulate their planning. Meanwhile, he continued, the GOES was trying to disorganize all opposing forces and, concomitantly, strengthen its forces by arms purchases. He concluded by saying that the PCES plans to open discussions along these same lines with the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FUSS), and the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers (ANDES). The PDC leaders, for their part, spoke about their recent election defeat and what could be expected in the 1972 elections. PDC and PCES leaders agreed to meet again in two weeks.

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2. [Redacted] Comment: There is a strong possibility of speculation in the PCES as to why the PCES initiated this discussion. It might be the first indication that the PCES is trying to form a popular front for the 1972 elections. To form the foundation of this popular front at this time is clever, since all opposition parties were offended by the governing National Conciliation Party's (PCN) tactics in the 8 March 1970 elections. A further speculation is that the PCES is trying to form a loose unity among opposition parties in order to deter any immediate GOES plan for repression on the political scene. For example, it is generally believed that the GOES is waiting to crack down on the National University of El Salvador (UES). Anticipating this action, the PCES, which would lose the most by such a repression, might think a unified leftist public outcry would cause the GOES to reconsider its decision to intercede.)

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3. [Redacted] Dissem: State, Defense Attache, CINCSO.

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