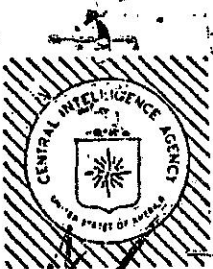


4-FBI



# Intelligence Information Report

## WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 5B (1), (2) impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~ C.P.

DATE DISTR. 5 February 1973

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

SUBJECT Government Assessment of "Pro-Marxist" Activities of Catholic Priest Groups

ACQ

SOURCE

EL.SAL.

EL.SAL.

Summary. A group of Catholic priests led by Father Fabian A m a y a Torres, parish priest of Ilopango, and advised by foreign Catholic priests assigned to El Salvador, has for some time been preparing and distributing a mimeographed publication entitled "Justice and Peace" which strongly and effectively attacks along substantially Marxist lines the present organization and functioning of Salvadoran society. Salvadoran authorities, who are concerned about this publication, believe that it is tied in with Salvadoran Catholic peasant movements, a "peasant university" headed by Monsignor Miguel M o n t e c i n o s, and two Catholic or Christian social organizations based in Santiago, Chile. There are indications that, while the publication is effective and presents a potential threat to public order, it is not part of a highly organized Catholic "revolutionary" movement. End Summary.

1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted]

SAN SALVADOR EL.SAL.

PRO-MARXIST

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(classification) (dissem controls)

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	CRS	(For	Distribution see final paragraph)

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members  
E.L. SAL,  
Chile

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7. The PDC leadership attaches considerable importance to "Justice and Peace" which it views as "pure dynamite," extremely well prepared, and far more effective in its attacks

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CONTINUATION SHEET

(20)

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against "the Establishment" in El Salvador than any propa-  
ganda put out by the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES).  
While most PDC leaders accept the basic truth of many of the  
points made in this publication, it is felt that its authors  
distort Salvadoran history and the facts of Salvadoran life to an  
objectionable degree. This publication is distributed primarily  
among peasants who accept its message. It is sold in churches  
on Sundays for about two cents a copy.

8. Although the latest issue is indicated as being  
Number 13 in the series, only the last four issues have had  
any significance, previous issues having had a very limited  
distribution. At present, approximately 10,000 copies of  
each issue are distributed. "Justice and Peace" is sponsored  
or prepared by the ~~Catholic Presbyterial Synod of San Salvador~~, *ELISAL*,  
an organization of parish priests which includes most of the  
members of the so-called "New Wave" in the Salvadoran Catholic  
Church.

*ELISAL* 9. There exists under the authority of the  
~~Salvadoran Episcopal Conference~~ a Commission of Justice and  
Peace which theoretically has no connection with the publication,  
"Justice and Peace." Should this commission disapprove of  
the publication, it could publicly disavow any connection  
with it. However, the commission has notably failed to  
take any such action - which leads many to believe that  
the commission at least does not disapprove of the publication.

*ELISAL* 10. FECCAS, formerly the peasant branch of the  
~~National Christian Workers' Union (UNOC)~~, has been extremely  
weak since UNOC went out of existence in about 1969 when  
the ~~Latin American Confederation of Christian Trade Unions~~  
(CLASC) refused to provide further financial subsidies to  
UNOC. FECCAS is now the moribund peasant branch of the  
~~Salvadoran Trade Union Council (CONSISAL)~~, an affiliate  
of the ~~Confederation of Latin American Workers (CLAT)~~.  
*Former Christian Democratic Party*

11.  Comment:   
 Acosta was one of the founders of the PDC in 1964 and  
was long in charge of peasant affairs within that party. In  
the 1968 national elections, Acosta was defeated by Mario  
Zamorakivas, currently a member of the PDC National  
Directorate, in a contest for election to the National  
Legislative Assembly. He was expelled from the PDC in May 1970  
when it was discovered that he was a paid organizer of the  
General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS)  
and was advocating a policy of violence. During the 1972  
national electoral campaign, Acosta worked for the PCES-  
controlled National Democratic Union (UDN) and is now considered  
by PDC leaders to be a member of the PCES. Bernave Antonio  
Garcia has long been considered to be an assistant of Acosta  
and is a former member of the PDC.) *ELISAL C.P. member*

12.  Comment: The publication "Justice and  
Peace" is definitely anti-status quo, but its message is  
not strictly speaking Marxist. It is an effort by progressive  
clergymen in the Archdiocese of San Salvador to convert  
the campesino from his political and social apathy by  
pointing out how he is exploited. It is probable that  
campesinos who read (and few are literate) "Justice and  
Peace" will find its arguments compelling and it is certain  
that the GOES considers the publication inflammatory.  
The foreign missionaries mentioned as advisers to "Justice  
and Peace" came close to being expelled by the GOES for

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political activity two years ago. They have been under close surveillance since then, and if the security forces could prove that any one of them was contributing in any way to "Justice and Peace" it seems likely that the GOES would expel him without hesitation. There is no doubt that the missionaries mentioned are sympathetic to the editorial line of "Justice and Peace." The various branches of the Campesino University are well under the control and direction of two American missionary priests. Neither has Marxist tendencies. Indeed both are aware of the GOES suspicion of campesino education programs and do their best to skirt controversial activities. The significance of this report seems to be that, at certain levels of the security forces publications critical of political, economic and social conditions in El Salvador are considered subversive as are efforts by agencies not related to the GOES to educate the campesinos.)

13. (Headquarters Comment: Available in the CIA Document and Pictorial Services Division is a 17-page copy in Spanish of issue number 13 of "Justice and Peace," dated 24 December 1972. This issue, [Redacted] is unclassified when detached from this report.)

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14. [Redacted] Dissem: Embassy, Defense Attache at San Salvador: Sent to CINCSO.

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Distribution of Attachment: CRS/ADD

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