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Intelligence Information Report

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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

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SECRET

[Redacted]

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

DATE DISTR. 25 January 1973

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI [Redacted]

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

SUBJECT Developments among Communist-Dominated Trade Unions

ACQ

SOURCE

[Redacted]

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1. The Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) is trying to implement a policy of dynamic action which seeks to seize the political initiative and give the Party a more revolutionary aura. While within both the PCES and PCES-dominated trade unions the accent is upon youth and upon the creation of new cadres made up entirely of younger and supposedly more promising elements, both the PCES and the trade union movements which it dominates are discovering that the older, more experienced hands are not so easily ignored. As a result, the PCES has adopted a rather ambivalent attitude towards its older and more experienced leaders, particularly those in the trade union field, which seeks both to impose firm, revolutionary discipline and yet moderate its earlier antagonism towards labor leaders who are not in agreement with PCES labor policies. Carlos Alberto Hidalgo, until recently Secretary General of the PCES-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS), continues to display the utmost contempt for PCES labor policies and, as a result, has virtually come to the end of his career as a PCES leader. Hipolito Calles, a member of the Directorate of the key PCES-dominated Union of Railroad Workers (UTF) and until recently Secretary General of this union, appears to be arriving at an accommodation with the PCES and may ultimately be accepted back into the PCES as a leader in good standing. Meanwhile, more PCES leaders are being suspended from membership in the Party for failure to adhere to the required discipline.

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278 2. In an effort to implement its much debated labor policy, the PCES and the two labor federations which it dominates have sought to exploit the problems of the UTF to achieve a broad leadership of Salvadoran trade union activity. During the month of December 1972, the PCES and its two labor federations repeatedly urged that a special committee, formed by representatives of most of the significant Salvadoran trade union movements, to assist the UTF in its negotiations with management and the Government of El Salvador (GOES), be converted into a high-level action committee representing united Salvadoran labor on all important trade union matters. Non-Communist trade unions, recognizing that such a high-level committee would be dominated by the Communists, have refused to go along with the PCES and its labor federations in this matter and thus the first important initiative in the new PCES labor program has been frustrated.

3. Julio Cesar ~~C a s t r o~~ Belloso, the Secretary General of FUSC who was hand-picked by the PCES, continues to find the going very difficult within that Communist labor federation. He is not popular, and both leaders and the general rank and file membership respond apathetically to his politically inspired exhortations to action.

4.  Dissem: Embassy, Defense Attache at San Salvador: Sent to CINCSO.

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