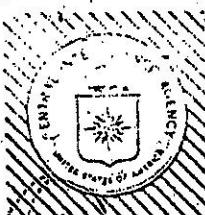


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Intelligence Information Report

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

DATE DISTR. 21 November 1972

COUNTRY El Salvador

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

SUBJECT Ferment within the Communist
Trade Union Movement

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

SOURCE [Redacted]

SALVADOR

1. Despite the fact that the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) managed to achieve the election in early September 1972 of its own slate of candidates to the National Directorate of the PCES-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS) and thus remove from the FUSS National Directorate Carlos Alberto Hidalgo, until then Secretary General of FUSS, and those of Hidalgo's supporters who had, with him, been accused by the PCES of failing to display "revolutionary dynamism," the PCES continues to encounter serious difficulties in exerting the desired degree of control over FUSS policies and activities. Julio Cesar Castro Belloso, elected Secretary General of FUSS with PCES backing in early September 1972, has found FUSS leaders unresponsive to the aggressive policies which he has tried to implement at the urging of the PCES. In October and November 1972, Castro Belloso called several meetings of the FUSS National Directorate only to find an insufficient number of members in attendance to constitute a quorum. In sum, Castro Belloso finds himself out of harmony with many FUSS leaders.

2. Hidalgo, Jorge Alberto Noujano, "de facto" leader of the PCES-dominated Federation of Unions of Workers in the Food, Clothing, Textile and Similar Industries of El Salvador (FESTIAVSCES), and Hipolito Calles, a leader of the key Union of Railroad Workers (UTR) and former Secretary of Finance of FUSS, are convinced that the trade union policies formulated by Jorge Shafick Handal, Secretary

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General of the PCES, and currently, being imposed to the greatest possible extent by the PCES upon the Communist trade union movement will merely bring about the decline and perhaps disintegration of that movement. These Communist leaders further believe that Handal's policies will do great harm to the PCES. Thus, these leaders have joined together to combat Handal's policies while continuing to affirm their loyalty to the PCES.

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whereas in September 1972 it appeared that Handal would have his way in the Communist trade union movement, it now appears, with the recent electoral victory achieved by Calles over the PCES opposition within the UTF, and with the difficulties being experienced by Castro Beloso, that Handal is not in control of the situation. Calles has pointed out that the malaise within the Communist trade union movement is beginning to be felt within the PCES, which Calles and his allies accuse of having neglected the interests of the working classes. Among other things, Calles and his allies point out that, during the recent national elections, the National Opposition Union (UNO) made virtually no provision for trade union representation in the formation of its slates of candidates. Yet UNO was quick to demand that the trade unions go on strike and generally support UNO through drastic action when the elections went badly. Calles expresses the opinion that, in view of current problems, the PCES will not hold its Seventh National Congress in the near future as originally planned.

4. (Embassy Comment: During the 1972 national electoral campaign, PDC leaders confirmed that their ties with organized labor were weak and expressed the hope that the PCES-controlled National Democratic Union (UDN), one of their partners in the UNO coalition, might help to pull in the labor vote.)

5. [Redacted] Dissem: Embassy, Defense Attache at San Salvador:
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