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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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Communist Party -

DATE DISTR. 17 October 1972

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

COUNTRY El Salvador

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

SUBJECT Efforts of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) to bring about a Change in the Leadership and Policies of the Union of Railroad Workers

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SOURCE

(b)(1)
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1. [redacted] the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) was planning to make determined effort to achieve a change in the leadership and policies of the Union of Railroad Workers (UTF) at the UTF national assembly scheduled to take place on 14 or 21 October 1972 when a new union directorate was to be elected. The PCES believes that Hipolito Calles, Secretary General of the UTF, has shown an excessive willingness to cooperate with the U.S. controlled management of the International Railways of Central America (IRCA). While Calles believes that it will serve no useful purpose to frustrate management efforts to shore up the operations of a railroad on the verge of bankruptcy, the PCES demands that the UTF adopt an aggressive anti-management and anti - U.S. policy - and particularly that the UTF react strongly and intransigently to the virtually inevitable firing of approximately 300 workers who are generally conceded to be excess. Calles, on the other hand, believes that the UTF must resign itself to the firing of the 300 workers under acceptable conditions.

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2. IRCA workers who expect to lose their employment in the near future have, with PCES encouragement, rebelled against Calles and made him clearly understand that he should not seek re-election as Secretary General of the UTF. Calles has already told close friends that he is unwilling to turn against the PCES with which he has been associated as a prominent labor leader for many years. Moreover, Calles has been effectively

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p263

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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

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intimidated by forceful worker representatives who have threatened to take violent action against him in the event that he should seek to frustrate their desires.

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3. Calles is convinced that the current labor policies of the PCES are mistaken, and he believes that his views will be vindicated by future events. As the outgoing Secretary of Finance of the PCES-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS) who was obliged to surrender his functions to his successor on 5 October 1972, Calles seized every opportunity to express his opposition to PCES policies which have prevailed in this federation of which the UTF is the most important member. For example, as long as Calles was in control of FUSS finances, no funds were made available to send participants to the 25 September to 21 October 1972 training program held by the Central American Labor Unity Committee (CUSCA) in Costa Rica.

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P262