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Intelligence Information Report

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SECRET

DATE DISTR: 19 November 1970

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

SUBJECT

Proposals Presented To The Christian Democratic Party Of El Salvador By Jorge Shafick Handal, The Secretary General Of The Communist Party Of El Salvador

ACQ

SOURCE

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1. At a [redacted] meeting of the Political Committee of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Mario Ramon Zamora Rivas, a PDC deputy in the National Legislative Assembly and a leader in the Christian Democratic Youth Movement (JDC), informed PDC leaders that he met with Jorge Shafick Handal, the Secretary General of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES), on 5 November. Handal, who initiated the meeting and was representing the unrecognized and Communist-dominated Revolutionary Party (PR), was accompanied by Alfonso Enrique Aguirre and Ernesto Luis Ruiz, the two National Assembly deputies of the National Democratic Union (UDN), a Communist-supported, minority opposition party. Handal asked Zamora to present to the PDC leaders the following PR proposals:

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- (a) A system of consultation be established between the PR, PDC, UDN, and possibly the National Revolutionary Movement party (MNR) to discuss legislation in the National Legislative Assembly and to vote uniformly whenever possible.
- (b) The parties jointly sponsor legislation in the National Assembly since, until now, the PDC and the UDN have simply dealt with legislation proposed by the governing National Conciliation Party (PCN).

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2. Leaders of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) are pleased with the results of the university elections and consider them in general to be a victory for the Communist Party. While several of the Communist-supported candidates were defeated, those elected are acceptable to the Communist Party and offer no challenge to the plans of Communist leaders.

3. The PCES supported Menjivar, a former PCES member and economics professor, for the rectorship because they viewed him as a leftist leader who could be manipulated by the Party. Jose Napoleon Rodriguez Ruiz, Jr., the Vice-Rector and former PCES Central Committee member, still works closely with PCES leaders. Luis Ernesto Arevalo, the University Treasurer and former Dean of the University Extension School in Santa Ana, was not supported by the PCES in the elections, but is acceptable to PCES leaders. Arevalo is known as a leftist who is an activist and organizer. The PCES had supported Renan Rodas Lazo, a lawyer for the Communist-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Unions (FUSS), for the position of university treasurer. His defeat, and the victory by Arevalo, in no way damage PCES plans at the university.

4. With the exception of the economics faculty, where the two Communist-supported candidates were defeated, the faculty elections turned out as Communist leaders expected. Communist leaders are confident that in the economics faculty Abarca and Escobar will not stand in the Party's way in carrying out university reforms. If they do, Roberto Calvo Castellanos, an economics professor and PCES Central Committee member, will bring pressure against them. The Communist leaders are confident they can control the university situation at the faculty level.

5. [] Comment: Although FAPES withdrew from the assembly, at least one of its candidates, Dr. Vilanova of the dentistry faculty, was elected. Dr. Vilanova is one of the founders of FAPES, but may have considerable difficulty withstanding leftist/extremist pressures. Although FAPES published a declaration indicating that it may challenge the elections in court on the grounds that the ballot was not secret, it is problematical whether a favorable court decision, if obtained, could be enforced.)

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6. [] Dissem: State, Defense Attache, CINCSO, CINCLANT.

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