



Intelligence Information Report 4-FBI

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GROUP 1
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DATE DISTR. 12 MAY 1972

COUNTRY EL SALVADOR

DOI

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SUBJECT COMMUNIST ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
AND TRENDS SINCE THE SALVADORAN/HONDURAN WAR

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SOURCE

SUMMARY: [REDACTED] JORGE SHAFICK H A N D A L, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF EL SALVADOR (PCES), DELIVERED
A SPEECH AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR SUMMARIZING
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS SINCE THE END OF THE SALVADORAN/
HONDURAN WAR IN JULY 1969. HANDAL NOTED THE INCREASING DISCONTENT
AMONG THE POPULAR MASSES OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSION AND
POOR PERFORMANCE, AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A POLITICAL
ORGANIZATION THROUGH WHICH THE PEOPLE COULD EXPRESS THEMSELVES.
END SUMMARY.

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1. ON 3 MAY 1972, AT A MEETING AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
EL SALVADOR (UES) ORGANIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY ACTION FRONT (FAU)
AND ATTENDED BY ABOUT 200 STUDENTS, JORGE SHAFICK H A N D A L,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF EL SALVADOR (PCES),

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JUN 2 1972

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7/1 60 JUN 12 1972
HANDAL DISCUSSED HIS SUBJECT IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR PERIODS: FROM THE END OF THE HONDURAN WAR UNTIL THE END OF 1971; JULY TO AUGUST 1971; OCTOBER 1971 TO 24 MARCH 1972; AND THE PERIOD SINCE 25 MARCH 1972.

2. IN HIS ADDRESS, HANDAL LISTED THE FOLLOWING AS OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERIOD FROM THE END OF THE HONDURAN WAR IN JULY 1969 UNTIL THE END OF 1971;

- A. PROFOUND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
- B. BREAKDOWN OF THE EXISTING POLICY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- C. DEVELOPMENT OF A SPLIT WITHIN THE GOVERNING CLASS.
- D. CONTINUING APATHY AMONG THE POPULAR MASSES WHICH GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR (GOES).

3. HANDAL LISTED THE FOLLOWING AS OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO AUGUST 1971;

- A. TENDENCY OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO BECOME INCREASINGLY ACUTE.
- B. AN EVEN WIDER DIVISION WITHIN THE GOVERNING CLASS.
- C. SHEDDING OF APATHY BY THE POPULAR MASSES AND DISPLAY OF WILLINGNESS TO INITIATE A STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GOES.
- D. DEVELOPMENT OF A MOVEMENT TOWARD "POPULAR UNITY."

4. HANDAL DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING AS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ELECTORAL PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1971 UNTIL 24 MARCH 1972:

- A. INCREASING DISCONTENT AMONG THE POPULAR MASSES.
- B. GOES ELECTORAL DEFEAT...
- C. GOES UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK BY THE POPULAR MASSES.
- D. UNMASKING OF "OFFICIAL DEMOCRACY" AS A FRAUD.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GOES OFFICIALLY WON THE MARCH 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF

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AMONG THE POPULACE THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE FRAUDULENT.)

5. HANDAL DESCRIBED THE PERIOD SINCE 25 MARCH 1972 IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

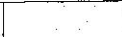
A. SUSPENSION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF THE POPULAR MASSES.

B. SHIFT OF THE CENTER OF ACTION FROM THE POPULAR MASSES TO THE ARMED FORCES.

C. UNIVERSAL EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS DIVISION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

6. HANDAL VIEWED THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS IN EL SALVADOR AS A SYMPTOM OF THE BASIC STRUCTURAL CRISIS WHICH AFFLICTS THE COUNTRY AND IS FELT BY ALL CLASSES. HE ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE POPULAR MASSES HAS BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE FOCUS OF ACTIVITY HAS SHIFTED TO THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID THAT THE GOES IS WELL AWARE OF THE FERMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY GOING ON WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, AND HE CONTENTED THAT A PROLONGATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE WOULD ONLY AGGRAVATE MATTERS. HANDAL DESCRIBED THE PAST TEN YEARS AS A PERIOD OF GROWING POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG THE POPULAR MASSES OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT THE TIME HAD NOW COME TO CREATE A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THROUGH WHICH THE POPULAR MASSES COULD EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

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SENT TO CINCSO, CINCLANT

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