



Intelligence Information Report

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GROUP 1
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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~

COMMUNIST PARTY

[Redacted]

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

DATE DISTR. 27 January 1971

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI [Redacted]

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SUBJECT Plan of the Communist Party of El Salvador to Provoke a Strike by the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers

~~REF-101~~

ACQ [Redacted]
SOURCE [Redacted]

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EL SALVADOR

1. Leaders of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) hope to provoke the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers (ANDES) to strike to demand higher teachers' wages. Appointed by the Communists to lead this effort were Raul Padilla Vela, a member of the PCES Central Committee, and Mario Medrano Gonzalez, an ANDES activist who was the ANDES organization secretary during the 1968 teachers' strike. A teachers' strike in February or March, Communist leaders believe, would be a personal embarrassment to Walter Beneke Medina, the Minister of Education of the Government of El Salvador (GOES). Communist leaders are aware that Beneke is opposed to wage increases for teachers at this time. They feel a strike will force this issue and alienate Beneke from the teachers, who, thereafter, will call for his resignation. In trying to convince ANDES leaders to call a strike, Medrano and Padilla are arguing that the GOES does not want serious problems with ANDES at this time, and would compromise on a wage increase to avoid a confrontation.

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2. [Redacted] Comment: An ANDES commission recently proposed to the National Legislative Assembly a new teachers law, which, in effect, would raise teachers' salaries. The proposal is now in committee and due to be reported out in 90 days. Several high-level leaders of the assembly have indicated sympathy for

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the teachers' demands. However, it remains to be seen if the law will pass. The threat of an imminent strike by teachers may cause the GOES to block the law to avoid being placed in a position where they appear to be bowing under pressure. Another consideration would be whether the GOES budget can absorb an increase in teachers' salaries. Present indications are that it cannot. If a strike should be called, the wage issue could be a popular cause among teachers.)

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

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