



Intelligence Information Report

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DIRECTORATE FOR PLANS

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DATE DISTR. 16 November 1971

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

SUBJECT Concern Among Top Leaders of the Communist Party of El Salvador for the Future of the Party

ACQ

SOURCE

[Redacted area]

1. At the present moment the top leadership of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) views the future with much concern and is preoccupied over what it considers to be a process of progressive isolation and loss of prestige suffered by the PCES. Long accused by more activist-minded elements of the left of being too election-minded, the PCES top leadership views with some alarm the growing acceptance of the concept of armed struggle among Salvadoran leftists, particularly among politically aware university students. Dissensions within the PCES ranks and desertions by Party members to more violence-oriented movements constitute for the PCES leaders the greatest threat to the prestige of the Party.

2. In recent weeks the PCES has launched a vigorous campaign attacking all elements of what the PCES now calls "the new left." This violence-oriented "new left" is accused by the PCES of playing into the hands of the Salvadoran authorities and of creating the conditions whereby the Salvadoran police can repeatedly eliminate local revolutionary movements as they are formed. In sum, the PCES argues that, because of the "new left," it is impossible to organize any worthwhile revolutionary activity in the country.

3. Thus far, denunciations of the "new left" by Jorge Shafick H a n d a l, Secretary General of the PCES, Miguel Angel S a e n z V a r e l a, PCES Central Committee member, and

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Nat. Intell. Section

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~~Roberto Castellanos Calvo, PCES Central Committee member, have had no effect upon youths who have espoused the cause of armed struggle. Moreover, in the course of its recruitment activities, the PCES has become aware that many leftist leaders among the peasants, urban workers, and the middle class are showing an increasing disposition towards violent methods. Secondary school students, whom the PCES has for decades sought to organize, now display a marked distaste for the electioneering tactics of the PCES and find inspiration in such revolutionary heroes as "Che" Guevara. Wherever it turns, to students, to trade unions, to the leftist elements of the middle class, the PCES finds itself frustrated by an increasing fascination with the activist exhortations of such violence-prone individuals as former PCES leader Salvador Cayetano Carpio.~~

4. [Redacted] Comment: The PCES continues to have faith in its plodding organizational work. However, it cannot ignore the fact that its efforts have had little success in rural areas, that its relations with student organizations such as the General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS) are ever less cordial, and that the PCES military commission is no longer a functioning body. In sum, the future has anything but a rosy hue for the top leadership of the PCES which is committed to an essentially non-violent approach to revolution.)

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5. [Redacted] Dissem: State, Defense Attache, CINCSO, CINCLANT.

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