



Intelligence Information Report

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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[Redacted] (b)(1)
[Redacted] (b)(3)

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1973

COUNTRY El Salvador/USSR/Argentina

DOI [Redacted]

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SUBJECT

Recent Visit to the Soviet Union by the Secretary General of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES).

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SOURCE [Redacted]

1. [Redacted] Jorge Shafick Handal, Secretary General of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES), said that during his recent visit to the Soviet Union he met with functionaries of the Soviet Communist Party for a series of talks. Among the topics covered in these talks were the past activities of the PCES and discussions of future PCES objectives and strategy. Handal requested increased financial support from the Soviets because of the increased burden of PCES responsibilities such as the need to assist various persons associated with the 1971 - 1972 National Opposition Union (UNO) electoral coalition. The Soviets agreed to provide an unspecified increase in the normal annual subsidy to the PCES which amounts to \$100,000 a year. In the case of support for UNO, the Communist Party objective is to reactivate the electoral coalition so that the PCES can participate in a united electoral front in the 1974 elections. The PCES youth organization (JC), presently numbering about 50 active members, will continue to receive only the usual \$200 a year as its share of the total Soviet subsidy to the PCES and will not benefit from the agreed increase. Handal has said he attaches great importance to this subsidy in view of the serious financial problems currently facing the PCES.

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2. EL Salvador Comment: The lack of funds available to the PCES was further aggravated by the confiscation in March 1973 by the government of El Salvador (GOES) of PCES funds amounting to almost \$20,000 in cash and checks. These funds were in the possession of Jacinto Castellano Rivas, a PCES courier who was searched when he attempted to enter El Salvador from Costa Rica. The loss of these funds brought a curtailment of some PCES plans for activities during

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the Labor Day celebrations on 1 May 1973 and forced the PCES to rely more heavily upon collaboration and assistance from other organizations and private individuals.)

3. At Soviet suggestion, Handal visited Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Panama in late December 1972 and the first two weeks of January 1973 before returning to El Salvador. (Headquarters Comment:

[Redacted]

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he returned to El Salvador on 15 February 1973.)

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Handal met with the Central Committees of the Communist Parties in these countries for general discussions of common problems. At that time the Central Committee of the Argentine Communist Party did not expect the Peronists to win the coming presidential elections. Since his return to El Salvador, Handal has commented that Juan D. Peron's decision to leave Argentina before the elections was a very intelligent maneuver since he avoided being pulled into everyday political controversies and thus tarnishing his "above the battle" image.

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4. Handal said that his primary reason for visiting the Soviet Union had been to undergo a thorough physical examination. He had arranged for this examination to determine the cause of physical exhaustion which had bothered him for some time. He said that the medical examination had not revealed any major health problem.

5. [Redacted] Dissem: Embassy, Defense Attache at San Salvador.

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