



Intelligence Information Report

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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

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~~SECRET~~

Communist Party

DATE DISTR. 17 February 1970

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

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

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SUBJECT Opposition of a Leader of the Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Unions (FUSS) To the Nomination of Julio Castro as a Congressional Candidate

REC-19

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SOURCE

[Redacted area]

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1. [Redacted] Comment: On 15 January 1970 the National Democratic Union Party (PUDN) nominated Julio Castro Hueloso, Secretary of Organization for the Communist-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Unions (FUSS), as second PUDN congressional candidate in the Department of San Salvador. Castro is a known member of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) and previously served as Secretary General of FUSS. See Embassy A-17 for more details on the general pre-election picture.)

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2. Shortly before this announcement, Carlos Alberto Hidalgo, an FUSS leader and past Secretary General, strongly voiced his displeasure to a group of FUSS leaders over the PUDN's intended nomination of Castro. Hidalgo encouraged Castro, who was among the group, not to accept the candidacy on the grounds that FUSS could gain more in the March elections by not running a specific FUSS candidate and, instead, deal with all five political parties in the hope of gaining political advantage from each of them. One candidate, according to Hidalgo, even if he won a congressional seat, could not by himself improve the lot of FUSS. Therefore, FUSS should concentrate on gaining general political acceptance and establish a favorable climate for its activities. If this is not possible, he continued, FUSS should set out to gain control of the PUDN and establish a FUSS-centered party.

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64-200-226

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3. Hidalgo lost the debate, however, and Castro accepted the nomination. Shortly thereafter, Hidalgo agreed to disregard his personal opinions by offering total FUSS support to the PUDN candidates.

4. Comment: Francisco Roberto "Chico" Lima, founder and President of the PUDN, and the first PUDN congressional candidate in San Salvador, does not appear to favor FUSS plans and demands. Certainly he would not favor making his party a center for FUSS designs. Since the PUDN expects Lima to win one seat in San Salvador, with Castro possibly winning a second, it may have appeared to Hidalgo that FUSS was sacrificing too much in return for Lima's assured win. Hidalgo's move to support Castro avoided a factional split within FUSS.)

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