



Intelligence Information Report

4-1/FBI

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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

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DATE DISTR 20 September 1972

COUNTRY El Salvador

DOI

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SUBJECT Eighth Congress of the Communist-Dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS)

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SOURCE

Summary. At the Eighth Congress of the Communist-dominated Unifying Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS), held on 9 - 10 September 1972, the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) seized control of the proceedings and brought about changes in the Federation's Directorate to suit its purposes. Carlos Alberto Hidalgo strongly criticized for lack of revolutionary dynamism and for having failed adequately to protect FUSS interests, was ousted from his position as Secretary General and replaced by Julio Cesar Castromo Belloso. Hipolito Calles, Secretary General of the Union of Railroad Workers (UTF), the most important of the FUSS member unions, supported Hidalgo's condemnation of PCES interference in FUSS affairs, and the UTF abstained from voting throughout the Congress. After the conclusion of the FUSS Congress, the UTF Directorate passed a resolution forbidding the FUSS Directorate to hold meetings in UTF officers. End Summary.

1. The Eighth Congress of the Communist-dominated FUSS took place on 9 - 10 September 1972. From the outset, it was clear that the PCES, dissatisfied with recent FUSS policies and activities, had seized control of the Congress and would bring about changes in the Federation's leadership to suit its purposes. Comment: It is easier to seize control of voting at a FUSS congress than at other Salvadoran trade union congresses since voting is based upon the majority position of the directors of each union, and no account is taken of dissenting votes within individual union directorates.)

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CP - El Salvador

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the PCES was determined to bring about the removal of Carlos Alberto Hidalgo, then Secretary General of FUSS, and all his supporters.)

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2. It soon became apparent that the favored candidate for election to the position of Secretary General of FUSS was Julio Cesar Castro, a prominent member of the PCES and formerly Secretary General of FUSS, and many speeches were made in support of his candidacy. Numerous speeches were made by lesser leaders of FUSS criticizing Hidalgo for lack of revolutionary dynamism, for failure to protect FUSS interests, for failure to support a proposed general strike in support of the National Opposition Union (UNO) following the recent national elections, and for having urged the formation of a third Communist labor federation in an effort to undermine FUSS strength. Hidalgo defended himself vigorously and aroused considerable sympathy among the rank and file members of those attending the congress. Hidalgo's main theme was that politicians should restrict their activities to the affairs of their political parties and that trade union leaders should concentrate on labor matters. He also maintained that he is as good a Marxist as anyone and refused to be given lessons in Marxist doctrine.

3. Hipolito Calles, a member of the PCES and Secretary General of the UTF, the most important of the FUSS member unions, did not defend Hidalgo, personally. Calles, however, forcefully expressed his disagreement with PCES trade union policies, and the UTF abstained from voting throughout the FUSS Congress. It was also significant that Jorge Alberto Quijano, de facto leader of the Communist-dominated Federation of Workers in the Food, Clothing, Textile and Similar Industries of El Salvador (FESTIAVSCES), did not attend the FUSS Congress as an observer. Comment: Quijano, along with Hidalgo, has been the object of continuing criticism from the PCES for the past several months.

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4. The FUSS Congress elected the following as members of the Federation's new Directorate:

EL SALVADOR

- Secretary General - Julio Cesar Castro Belloso
- Secretary for Organization - Bernardo S. Carcamo
- First Secretary of Conflicts - Jose Cecilio Carrillos
- Second Secretary of Conflicts - Jose Isabel Turcios
- Secretary for Education, Press and Propaganda - Rafael Aguinada Carranza
- Secretary for Security - Noe Aguilar
- Secretary for Youth Affairs - Eduardo Hugo Campos
- Secretary for Women's Affairs - Mercedes Cruz Lopez
- Secretary for Agricultural Affairs - Carlos Antonio Villanueva
- Secretary for Finances - Andres Mejia Castellon
- Recording Secretary - Jose Antonio Morales Mendoza
- Commission for Honor and Justice:
 - Humberto Perez
 - Miguel Cano
 - Santos Villeda

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El Salvador

Jose Candido Ventura

Moises Guzman Cornejo

Economic Commission:

Pedro Polanco

Fernando Guevara Medrano

Judas Tades Padilla

Rodrigo Guevara

Dagoberto Sosa

[] Comment: Of the members of the above FUSS Directorate, the only persons of any prominence in the Salvadoran labor movement are Castro Beloso and Aguinada Carranza, a member of the PCES Central Committee.)

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5. After the conclusion of the FUSS Congress, the UTF Directorate met and passed a resolution forbidding the FUSS Directorate to hold meetings in UTF offices.

6. (Embassy Comment: Hidalgo and Castro have been serving alternately as FUSS Secretary General for some years. It is interesting to note that Hidalgo in being succeeded by Castro this time did not move to another position in the FUSS Executive Board.)

7. [] Dissem: Embassy, Defense attache at San Salvador Sent to CINCSO.

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Exemption category 5 B(2). Impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

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