

File 945

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY El Salvador

DATE DISTR. 10 September 1948

SUBJECT Col. Osmin Aguirre's Presidential Campaign
25X1A6a

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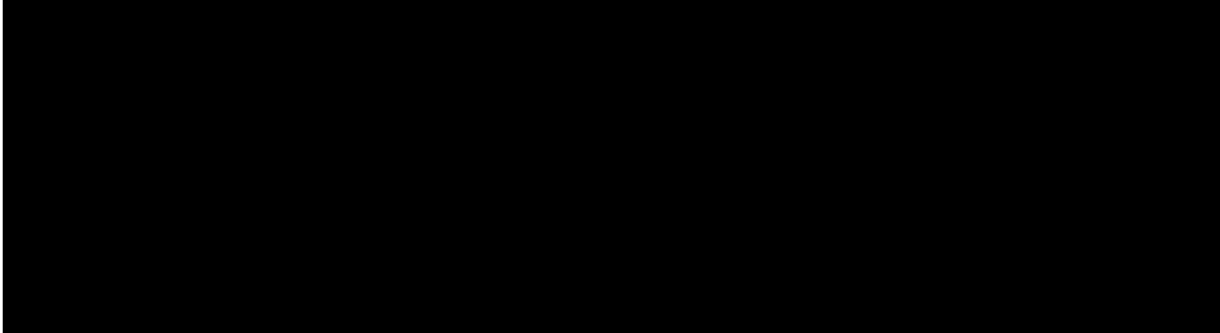
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



- 25X1X6 1. The convention of the Partido Social Democrata held on 15 August to launch the candidacy of Colonel Osmin Aguirre as presidential candidate in El Salvador was generally conceded to have been a well-attended success, but Aguirre's campaign committee estimates that about 3,000 people were prevented from coming to the Capital that day by the authorities. Arrests of persons without their road tax receipt, interference with traffic by traffic control authorities, and delays of buses headed for the Capital, were some of the methods used to prevent a larger attendance.
2. Colonel Aguirre informed his committee that he would not censor the authorities for expelling from the country Samuel Molina Gomez, who severely attacked the Castaneda regime at the convention. Aguirre pointed out that Molina had not cleared his words with the special committee created for the specific purpose of censoring official public utterances of party members, and had dragged a personal feud into the campaign, which was exactly what they wished to avoid. Aguirre warned his committee members of his intention to carry out a clean campaign.
3. Aguirre is convinced that President Castaneda will not provide honest elections, and Aguirre is prepared to engineer some coup d'etat. According to Aguirre, Castaneda cannot make up his mind which of five possible courses to follow: 1) prolongation of his own term for two years; 2) support of General Espinola as official candidate; 3) drop General Espinola in favor of a compromise candidate, possibly General Avendano; 4) lift the State of Siege and give his personal support to Dr. Raulfo Castro; or 5) support Aguirre.
4. Aguirre now claims to have enlisted the support of Major Oscar Osorio, the leader of the young army officer group who is at present in Mexico. Aguirre intends to bring Osorio to El Salvador by whatever means necessary, since he believes the latter holds the key to the military coup which may be necessary if the Castaneda regime continues its repressive measures. Aguirre added that in any event it may be necessary to take steps in January 1949 to prevent the Castaneda regime from squandering the entire 1949 budget before they retire from office in March.

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 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77