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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO.

COUNTRY El Salvador

DATE DISTR. 31 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Resignation of Col. Manuel Cordova

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

1. According to a report from El Salvador, newspaper accounts of the resignation of Lt. Col. Manuel Cordova from the governing Junta of El Salvador were fabrications put out to conceal the personal rivalry between Cordova and Major Oscar Osorio, which source believes to be the true cause of Cordova's resignation. The newspaper stories conveyed the impression that Cordova had sacrificed his position in order to achieve a balance in the Junta between civilian and military members.

2. According to source, Cordova had incurred the enmity of associates by his high-handed, dictatorial methods. He was mainly responsible for the appointment to government positions of leftist elements which were causing the most serious criticism that the new government had to face. Student leaders of Communist and anarchist tendencies could easily obtain favors from him. They and Cordova were reportedly engineering a crisis which might have involved a general labor strike.

3. The Partido de Orientacion Revolucionaria (POR) had prepared a list of demands to present to the governing Council and had asked for an audience on 5 January. This is believed to have been one of the causes which precipitated the removal of Cordova. A vote on the demands would have divided the Council, with Corddva and the two civilian members against Osorio and Major Oscar Bolanos.

4. It was recently predicted that Osorio would soon be elected president of El Salvador through a series of quick political maneuvers. It is known that he was scheduled to meet with a group of capitalists on 6 January who were reportedly worried about the present "illegal" basis of the government.

5. Julio Fausto Fernandez, Secretary General of the Communist Party, and Rodolfo Jimenez Barrios, prominent Communist, have reportedly been arrested since Cordova's removal. Cordova is known to have associated with them closely.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
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