

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002300260005-7
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY El Salvador
SUBJECT Communist Influence in Salvadoran Regime

DATE DISTR. 2 D Feb 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO



1. During a visit to [redacted] 25X1X6

[redacted] stated his belief that the coup d'etat of 14 December in El Salvador which ousted President Castaneda was purely an impromptu affair, and not an elaborately planned move. In his opinion, Lt. Col. Manuel Cordoba and Major Oscar Bolanos suddenly decided that Castaneda should be removed, and they proceeded to do so without having any plans for a government to succeed him. [redacted] went on to say that Cordoba and Bolanos were caught up in their own indecision, and leftist elements moved in before they could prevent it. The only solution they saw was to call for Major Osorio in Mexico to come and take power in El Salvador to prevent the leftists from assuming full control.

2. [redacted] stated that in his opinion Col. Osmin Aguirre would emerge as the final victor in the struggle for control, since Col. Aguirre would organize a counter-movement and set up a more conservative government. Reyes Guerra said that Cordoba, Bolanos, and Osorio are really loyal followers of Aguirre.

Comment.

1. A review of reports received at Guatemala prior to the Salvadoran coup d'etat suggests that Salvadoran Communists may have had prior knowledge of the recent coup d'etat and possibly aided it. Many members of the Salvadoran Committee for National Liberation (CSLN) had been exiled in Guatemala, including Daniel Castaneda, Virgilio Guerra, Jose H. Zamora, Juan Valiente, Alberto Vides Ramos, Miguel Marmol and Pedro Ayala. These men, believed to be Communists, are known to have associated closely with high officials of the Guatemalan government, including the President and cabinet. If the CSLN members were aware of the impending coup d'etat, there was plenty of opportunity for the Guatemalan government to obtain such knowledge.

President Arevalo of Guatemala promptly recognized the new regime in El Salvador, instead of displaying his usual hostility toward a military junta. The Guatemalan government, moreover, displayed no surprise, as did other groups, that Col. Osmin Aguirre was not behind the coup.

Document No. 0015
NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DATE: DDA MARS, 4 APR 77
AUTH: DDA REG. 77/1100
BY: 15 MYS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

3. A letter from Moises Castro y Morales, intellectual leader of Salvadoran Communists, advised Dr. Angel Gochez Castro, president of the CSLN that the "feudal capitalistic regime" in El Salvador must be liquidated. In another letter Castro y Morales wrote to Jose H. Zamora, known communist and officer of the CSLN that a completely organized group was needed "to take over the leadership of the revolt when called upon by the people to do so."
4. Major Oscar Osorio, at present the head of the governing Junta of El Salvador under the new regime, associated very closely with Major Humberto Villalta (recently deposed as Chief of the Armed Forces) who held the position of Secretary of Propaganda of the CSLN. Villalta, while not openly Communist, likewise associated closely with many Communists of the CSLN.
5. A report from El Salvador dated 1 August 1947 stated that the Communist movement in El Salvador depended greatly on outside help, and intimated that the Communists might have some working agreement with Col. Jose Arturo Castellanos, a Salvadoran army officer living in Mexico City. Castellanos was also closely in touch with Villalta.
6. Atilio Garcia Prieto, Secretary of Finance of the CSLN, was offered the portfolio of Fomento and Public Works in the new cabinet. He reportedly refused the offer because his brother had been imprisoned by the Junta.
7. Many Salvadorans are coming back from Guatemala where they had been exiled. These include Daniel Castaneda, Virgilio Guerra, Miguel Marmol and Efrain Rios, all Communists and all CSLN members. This is another indication that the CSLN has benefited from the new government, and that returning Communists are planning to take an active part in the government and labor affairs in El Salvador.)

25X1A6a
 25X1A2g
 [REDACTED] Comment) Reports received from El Salvador after the coup d'etat indicate that Communist support was not welcomed by the new governing Junta. [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~