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INFORMANT REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY El Salvador
SUBJECT Political Bureau of Major Osorio
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DATE DISTR. 14 Mar 1949

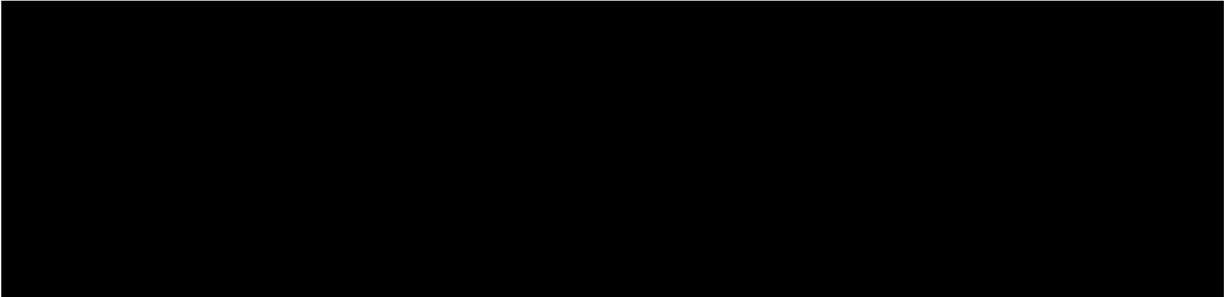
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.



1. Major Oscar Osorio, leading member of the Salvadorean governing junta, has set up a secret "Political Bureau" whose purpose is to organize a counter-offensive of anti-leftist forces in opposition to the Communist Party, the Partido de Orientacion Democratica (POD) and the Partido Accion Renovadora (PAR). The Political Bureau consists of the following men: Major Jose Alberto Funes, Lt. Col. Adan Parada, Lt. Col. Miguel Parais, Major Arnoldo Rodezno, Major Rafael Carranza Amaya, and Major Israel Espinoza. Not even the members of the Salvadorean governing junta, including Osorio's military colleague, Major Oscar Bolanos, know of the existence of the Political Bureau.
2. The first report of the Bureau is entitled "Report on the Activities of the Political Bureau (Confidential for Major Osorio)." It commences with the statement that the Bureau was created to perform two services necessary to the conquest of political positions in the forthcoming Constituent Assembly and presidential elections. These services are the Information Service and Organization Service. The report is divided into two sections dealing with the two services.
3. The Information Service is recruiting agents to report on the activities of the following organizations:
 - a) PAR, former party of Col. Jose Ascencio Menendez, which has Guatemalan connections through the Comité Salvadorean Liberacion Nacional (CSLN).
 - b) POD, run by leftist students.
 - c) Comité de Organizacion Obrera (CRO), which plans to organize all labor.
 - d) The Communist Party, which, according to the report, has successfully infiltrated key positions in the government, and which aims to influence the forthcoming elections by gaining Army and labor support.

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4. The Information Service reported that political parties of former presidential candidates are also disposed to join in the anti-leftist bloc or coalition. These parties and their former candidates include:

Partido Nacional Demócrata --Professor Jose Andres Orantes
Partido Social Demócrata--Osmin Aguirre
Partido Union Nacional--Espinola Castro
Partido Fraternal Progresista--General Cleramont
Partido Demócrata Republicano--General Pena Trejo

Orantes has offered his party's unconditional cooperation, and the other parties go along with Political Bureau objectives, though the candidates themselves, having already been eliminated, did not personally endorse the affiliation.

5. The Information Service report concluded with a statement that it recognized that Mexican and Guatemalan elements were supporting the leftist infiltration of the Salvadoran government. It added that Major Humberto Villalta's influence with the governing junta, prior to his removal by Osorio, had involved El Salvador with the old pattern of conspiracies carried on by the CSLN, which organization was still connected with the young militarists in the government. The report stated the Information Service's specific mission to be the compiling of data to neutralize press and other propaganda against the governing junta. The data would also serve as organization guide for the coalition forces.
6. The second arm of the Political Bureau, the Service of Organization, Press and Propaganda, stated as its objectives the formation and utilization of the following combination of parties to support Major Osorio:
- a) The Partido Demócrata Progresista (PDP) based on
 - 1) a coalition of former political parties (as described in paragraph 4 above)
 - 2) Capital
 - 3) Clergy
 - 4) The conservative element of the people
 - b) The Partido Revolucionario Salvadoreño (PRS) based on
 - 1) The Army
 - 2) Labor (already partially organized)
7. These two parties would be organized independently but would be secretly synchronized by a Central Directive Board which would force their public unification when elections for the Constituent Assembly are called. The basic political party would be the PDP, while the PRS would aim its program at the laboring class in general, and would combat the leftists by their own revolutionary methods such as the formation of factions within labor unions.

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8. According to source, the organization of the Army as members of a separate political party was not contemplated, since it was felt that the Army would understand and cooperate with the PPS as a workers party instead.*

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[REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] described activities of the Army in providing the newly-formed PDP with a newspaper, El Debate. The Army was also described as the motivating force behind the movement to recruit and ally partisans of the former political parties.

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