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COUNTRY El Salvador

DATE DISTR. 26 November 1948

SUBJECT President Castaneda's Plans for Continuing in Office
25X1A6a

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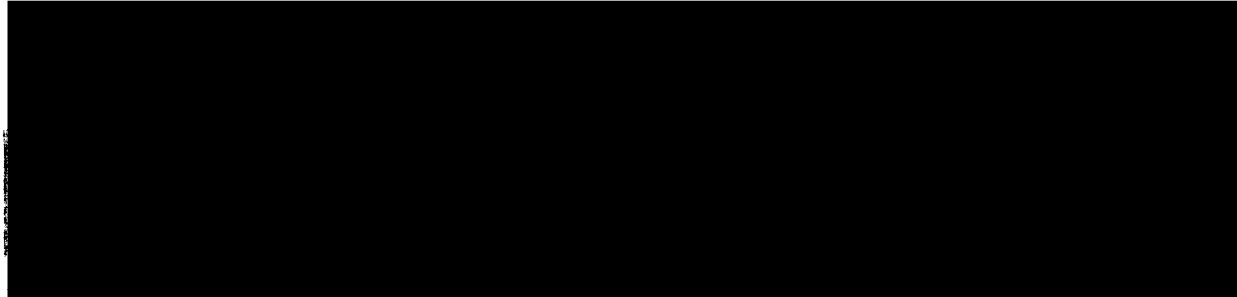
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- B-2 1. Political observers now consider it a certainty that President Castaneda of El Salvador is planning to extend his term in office, possibly using the projected Union de Centro America as an instrument in attaining his goal. The plan is to unite El Salvador with Honduras and Nicaragua into a Republica Mayor, of which Castaneda has been proposed as head.
- 2. Castaneda stated on 12 November that he was confident of the legality of his contention that the 1939 Constitution, establishing a presidential term of six years, ensures him of continuance in office, as his term was established on the basis of that document. Castaneda said that the best lawyers in the country agreed with him that attempts to reinvoke the 1886 Constitution, which limited the term to two years, had no legal basis.
- 3. Castaneda asserted that he was the people's choice, and that of the army, and that his past record would assure his reelection. He added that he had no fear of competition from the present field of candidates because steps were being taken to liquidate them.
- F-3 4. Dr. Victor Sandoval, personal physician to President Castaneda, stated that late November or early December would be the decisive period as regards Central American revolutionary affairs. He added that extensive study, on the part of Castaneda and himself, had led them to agree that in setting up the proposed Republica Mayor none of the present Presidents would have to be removed. Sandoval hinted that General Arana, Chief of the Guatemalan Armed Forces, might be supported in his projected coup against President Arevalo, since Arevalo was considered dangerous to the interests of the Republica Mayor.
- F-2 5. Ulises Flores, a young Salvadoran revolutionist, reported having seen correspondence between Castaneda and President Carias of Honduras concerning the formation of the Republic Mayor. The documents had been in the hands of Major Jose Alberto Funes, former second Chief of Castaneda's staff, and had been removed from the archives at the Casa Presidencial in June, 1948.

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