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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY [redacted] 25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY El Salvador

DATE DISTR. 11 APR 50

SUBJECT Salvadoran Presidential Campaign

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE [redacted]

1. At a meeting held on 14 March 1950 prior to the presidential elections in El Salvador, a committee composed of Rafael Guerrero (a leading Communist in the Comite de Reorganizacion Obrera), Ramon Cortez, Carlos Marin, and Jose Gavidia, was established to develop further the gains already realized by Salvadoran Communists in the Partido Accion Renovadora (PAR), as the result of their support of PAR candidate Jose Ascencio Menendez.

2. The efforts and activities of the unions led by Communist labor leaders Manuel Pineda Prieto, Secretary General of the CRO, Jose Raul Campos, Secretary General of the Union de Obreros Zapateros, and Rafael Pena Cifontes, former leader of the CRO and now a power in the Union de Trabajadores Ferrocarrileros, were also turned toward the election of Menendez. Although these labor leaders do not foresee that Menendez will be able to wrest the election from Major Oscar Osorio and his Partido Revolucionario de Unificacion Democratica, they feel that the election campaign has provided them with an opportunity to gain much needed political experience and that the advances they have made in several workers' unions, particularly the UTF,* will pay handsome dividends in the immediate future.

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