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Report No. 21

Date of Report: 10 December 1952

Date of Inform: 15 November to 10 December 1952

TO : Chief, WH

From : [ ]

SUBJECT: Current Political Picture, Honduras, C. A.

1. General Tiburcio CARIAS Andino and President Juan Manuel GÁLVEZ reconciled their political differences at a meeting held on December 2nd at the home of Vice-President Julio LOZANO, U. The threatened split in the National Party has been averted.

2. Gálvez is not to run for re-election. Both Carías and Gálvez have agreed, in the interests of party solidarity, to withdraw from the presidential race and unite behind a common candidate, who is as yet unspecified.

3. Carías is still the undisputed head of the National Party, as indicated by the following:

a. On Sunday, November 30th, in nation-wide elections for town mayors, General Carías' candidates won over-whelmingly. Total votes for his candidates were nearly four times the combined votes for all other candidates - i.e. - those supported by Gálvez and those supported by the Liberal Party. This was a direct test of strength between the supporters of General Carías and President Gálvez.

b. The National Assembly, opening its annual meeting on December 3rd elected several pro-Carías men as leaders for the current session.

c. The earlier report that the 5% contribution from each government employe to Carías had been stopped proved erroneous. As head of the National Party Carías still receives the contribution.

4. General Abraham WILLIAMS has been eased out of the picture for the present. Just where Williams stands politically is not clear at the moment, except that he has been temporarily shelved.

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5. The Guatemalans attempted to exert political influence, approaching Gálvez and offering their support in helping him remove Carias. They failed in this move.

6. Francisco MORAZAN, a Honduran, currently private secretary to President ARBENZ of Guatemala, visited Gálvez in Tegucigalpa (November 1952) and offered himself as a compromise candidate between General Carias and President Gálvez.

7. There is some form of liaison between Francisco Morazán and General Williams, the nature of which is not clear at this time. On his recent trip to Honduras Morazán delivered a truck-load of arms to the finca of General Williams, near Choluteca. The arms are still there.

[ ] Comment: This does not necessarily reflect a true picture of popular sentiment, since in many instances Carias' men controlled the local election machinery. Also many people voted the National Party ticket without realizing there was any question of choosing between Carias and Gálvez.

Attachments:

- "A" - Meeting, Carias-Gálvez
- "B" - Political Parties
- "C" - Election Results

Attachment: \*A\*  
To: Report No. 21

SUBJECT: Meeting Between President Juan M. Gálvez and General  
Tiburcio Carías Andino, December 2, 1952. Tegucigalpa, D. C.

SOURCE : [ CALLIGERIS, for paragraph 2. ]

1. General Carías, President Gálvez, and don Julio Lozano (Vice-President) met in the home of don Julio for a meeting which lasted two and a half hours. Carías and Gálvez agreed to drop out of the picture, solidify the National Party, and work for don Julio as successor to Gálvez. Reports indicate that General Williams, who was not invited to the meeting, was not taken into consideration in any way and will be left to shift for himself.

2. Gálvez, during his meeting with Carías, included in his remarks the following:

- a. That the Guatemalan government through its official representatives in Honduras had offered to help him remove Carías, by assassination if necessary;
- b. That both he and Carías must be very careful of their personal security in the future and use bodyguards.

Source Comment: The Guatemalans recognize in Carías the major obstacle to their political aspirations in Honduras, and they are prepared to employ any means to effect his elimination.

Attachment: "B"  
To: Report No. 21

SUBJECT: Political Parties; Partido Nacional and Partido Liberal

SOURCE : [ ] Honduras, C. A.

1. The two traditional parties, and the only ones which presently have any apparent strength, are the Nacional Party (Partido Nacional) and the Liberal Party (Partido Liberal). There are several lesser political parties, such as the Honduran Democratic Revolutionary Party (Partido Democrático Revolucionario Hondureño), and others which are subdivisions of the National or Liberal parties. However, at this writing we have no information on these smaller groups and hence shall leave them for a later report.

2. The relative strength of each one of the parties depends on the leaders of same and the propaganda which each party issues.

3. There is nothing in Honduran law which obliges the political parties to inscribe themselves as such in any register, in order that they be considered legal political parties. All the political groupings which exist in the country are legal. The National Party is the only one which has specifically requested recognition as a legal entity. This was done to enable it to acquire property, to have money deposits, and to exercise any other faculty which only natural or legal persons are capable of exercising.

4. The political parties meet in conventions to designate their candidates. All the officers and party members or supporters who can, attend these conventions. The rules of each party set forth the regulations for conventions, and it is the Directory group of each party which sets forth the date for such meetings according to the political circumstances.

5. In conformance with the Political Constitution of Honduras, the next presidential election must take place the second Sunday of October, 1954, and the President will take office the first of January, 1955.

Attachment: "C"  
To: Report No. 21

SUBJECT: Mayoralty Election Results  
Congressional Officials

SOURCE: Local newspapers, Tegucigalpa, D. C., Honduras, C. A.

1. The following are the official results of the nation-wide mayoralty elections, held November 30th.

National Party group (General Carías)	79,884
Liberal Party	13,883
so-called "Mixed Group" (Dr. Gálvez)	8,638
Others	5,756
Blank Ballots	166
Annulled Ballots	562
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,889</b>

2. A few departments still have some votes to report. This will in no way change the results of the elections.

3. The individuals chosen in Congress on December 3rd, 1952, to head the legislative body this coming year are:

President - Ingeniero Camilo Gómez y Gómez (departamento de Francisco Morazán)  
Vice-President - Lic. Francisco Salomón Jiménez Castro (departamento de Francisco Morazán)  
Secretario 1° - P. Q. Conrado Bonilla (departamento de Cortés)  
Secretario 2° - Jeronimo Alcerro Castro (departamento de Santa Bárbara)  
Pro-Secretario - Fernando Bustillo (departamento de Francisco Morazán)  
Pro-Secretario - Jesús Villela Vidal (departamento de Ocotepeque)

4. The voting on the above slate of officers ran 24 in favor with 22 opposed. Most of the above men are considered Caríistas.

6. The officers of the National Party are the following:

Tiburcio Carías Andino  
 Manuel Romero L.  
 Eduardo R. Coello  
 José María Casco  
 Marcos Ramírez  
 Fernando Zepeda Durón  
 Gabriel R. Aguilar  
 César A. Ramos  
 César F. Matamoros  
 Salomón Jiménez  
 Antonio B. Raquel  
 J. Francisco Martínez  
 Eleazar F. Vargas  
 Rafael López  
 Miguel A. Cruz Zambrano  
 Luis F. Lardizábal  
 Octavio Vallecillo  
 Eligio Elvir Quiñónez

Supreme Chief  
 Committee President (Presidente del Comité)  
 Vice-President  
 Supervisor (Fiscal)  
 Vice-Treasurer  
 Treasurer  
 Presides in absence of President & V.-P. (Vocal)  
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 1st Secretary  
 2nd Secretary  
 1st Pro-Secretary  
 2nd Pro-Secretary

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7. The officers of the Liberal Party are the following:

Ramón Villeda Morales  
 Pedro A. Zúniga  
 Félix Zavala Núñez  
 Oscar A. Flores  
 Manuel F. Barahona  
 Alfonso Alvarado  
 Juan Miguel Mejía

Vocal 1°  
 " 2°  
 " 3°  
 " 4°  
 " 5°  
 Secretary  
 Secretary