

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: MEXICO	8. REPORT NUMBER: [REDACTED]
2. SUBJECT: General Officers in Disfavor With Secretary of Defense	9. DATE OF REPORT: [REDACTED]
3. ISC NUMBER: [REDACTED]	10. NO. OF PAGES: 2
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: [REDACTED]	11. REFERENCES: [REDACTED]
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGIN: [REDACTED]	12. ORIGINATOR: [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]	13. PREPARED BY: [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [REDACTED]

REC'D CO'S 24 MAR 1969

(S) This report deals with the removal of the Chief of Staff, Secretariat of National Defense, and the loss of stature by the Chief of the Presidential General Staff.

1. (S) ~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~ [REDACTED] that MG Mario Ballesteros Prieto, former Chief of Staff, Mexican Secretariat of National Defense; and BG Luis Gutierrez Oropeza, Chief of the Presidential General Staff, were in disfavor with LTG Marcelino Garcia Barragan, Mexican Secretary of Defense. [REDACTED] stated that the reason General Ballesteros was relieved as Chief of Staff was that he, together with BG Gutierrez, had been either countermanding or failing to interpret properly orders given by General Garcia Barragan. Additionally, both generals had made personnel changes and appointments without clearing them with the Secretary of Defense. [REDACTED] also stated that General Gutierrez would no longer occupy his usual position directly behind the President at official functions.

102320-0X
104110-5X
302110-5X
333580-5X

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR: [REDACTED]	17. DOWNGRADING DATA: Group Three Downgraded at 12-year intervals; not automatically declassified.	18. ATTACHMENT DATA: None
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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ORIGINATOR [REDACTED]

2. ~~(S) (NO FOREIGN DISSEM)~~ The most important of these orders concerned the events at the Plaza of the Three Cultures on 2 October 1968 during the student disorders. General Garcia Barragan had instructed Ballesteros to send troops to surround the Plaza of the Three Cultures, and to observe what was going on and prevent student demonstrations from spreading to other parts of the city. [REDACTED] categorically stated that the Parachute Battalion's advance into the Plaza which resulted in a violent confrontation with the students was not part of the planned military activity. [REDACTED] stated that General Garcia Barragan could not judge at the time whether General Ballesteros had misinterpreted the orders or changed them deliberately; however, subsequent events convinced Garcia Barragan that both Generals Ballesteros and Gutierrez were bypassing his office and had in fact deliberately changed his orders.

(Leave 1)

COMMENTS: ~~(S) (NO FOREIGN DISSEM)~~ It is difficult to assess the validity of the allegations made in the above report [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] General Gutierrez is normally positioned directly behind the President at all official functions. During the Army Day breakfast, 19 February 1969, a young Mexican Army captain stood directly behind the President while Gutierrez sat at a table [REDACTED]. Additionally, General Ballesteros has been transferred to Canada as military attache to the Mexican Embassy there.

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