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Department of State

POL 23-9 Mex

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 949

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02882 270144Z

92
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
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R 270103Z MAY 71
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7539

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2882

SUBJECT: DEFENSE SECRETARY DENIES EXISTENCE OF GUERRILLAS
IN MEXICO

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRES ECHEVERRIA MAY 25
DEFENSE SECRETARY HERMENEGILDO CUENCA DIAZ STATED,
APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM PRESS CORPS:
"NEITHER IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO NOR IN ANY PART OF
THE REPUBLIC ARE THERE GUERRILLAS"; "IF THEY WERE TO
APPEAR WE WOULD HAVE TO COMBAT THEM RAPIDLY"; PERSONS
WHO ROB AND KILL ARE NOT GUERRILLAS, THEY ARE BANDITS."

2. CUENCA DIAZ DEVOTED MOST OF INTERVIEW TO LISTING
OF CIVIC ACTION FUNCTIONS OF ARMY: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE,
ALPHABETIZATION, ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS, PROVIDING WATER TO
DESERT REGIONS, ETC. HE NOTED THAT GUERRERO WAS A
PRIMARY AREA FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AND CLAIMED THAT
RESIDENTS OF THE GUERRERO SIERRA, WHO USED TO DISTRUST
THE ARMY AND RUN TO HIDE, NOW WELCOME IT.

END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. ATTORNEY GENERAL SANCHEZ VARGAS RECENTLY TOOK
SIMILAR LINE WITH DCM, ASCRIBING GUERRERO'S LONG-

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Mexico 2882
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TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 02882 270144Z

STANDING UNREST AND VIOLENCE TO ITS WOLD AND REMOTE TERRAIN, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO REACH THE POPULATION AND CONTROL IT.

4. COMMENT: HAVING GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY TO THE MAR PLOT, OF WHICH 25 MEMBERS ARE PRESEUMABLY STILL AT LARGE, THE GOM NOW APPARENTLY SEES SOME NEED TO PLAY DOWN THE GUERRILLA ISSUE. SINCE THE MAR EVENTS THERE HAVE BEEN A KIDNAP-MURDER IN GUERRERO BY AN OSTENSIBLY REVOLUTIONARY GROUP AND THE ARREST IN SONORA OF MEMBERS OF ANOTHER GUERRILLA-TYPE ORGANIZATION. THE ARMY'S CIVIC ACTION CAMPAIGN IN GUERRERO IS DIRECTED TOWARD REDUCING SUPPORT FOR GENARO VAZQUEZ ROJAS AND HIS NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY CIVIC ACTION GROUP (ACNR) AND FOR LUCIO CABANAS WHO IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE COASTAL MOUTAINS OF THAT STATE. CABANAS IS A COMMUNIST AND HIS MOVEMENT IS DEFINITELY IDEOLOGIAL. THE BULK OF THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO A SIMILAR CONCLUSION WITH REGARD TO VAZQUEZ ROJAS. IN ADDITION TO ARMY CIVIC ACTION EFFORTS ALL OR MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE FOUR INFANTRY BATTALIONS STATIONED IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO ARE OPERATING AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS. (SEE DAO 0348 DTG 252220Z MAY 71) GP-3
END CONFIDENTIAL
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