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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Mexico  
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*George*  
*Be Quiet Re*  
*THIS*

Received: Washington CommGen  
5:37 PM EDT Thursday 29, AUG 1968

EEA405  
OO WTE10  
DE WTE 3559

.. Received: LBJ Ranch CommGen  
5:10 PM CDST Thursday 29, AUG 1968

FROM: WALT ROSTOW  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
CITE: CAP82270

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4  
NEJ 95-188  
By mg, NARA, Date 10-2-95

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AUGUST 29, 1968

SUBJECT: STUDENT SITUATION IN MEXICO

LATE IN JULY WHEN MEXICO CITY STUDENTS WENT ON A RAMPAGE, THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES REACTED STRONGLY TO BRING THEM UNDER CONTROL. FOUR STUDENTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED AND MANY INJURED. THIS BROUGHT CRIES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND INCREASED DEMANDS ON THE PART OF THE STUDENTS.

MEXICAN AUTHORITIES THEN SWITCHED STRATEGY, ALLOWING THE STUDENTS PRETTY MUCH OF A FREE REIN ON DEMONSTRATIONS AND INDICATING A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE GRIEVANCES. THE AUTHORITIES THOUGHT THIS WOULD QUICKLY DEFUSE STUDENT AGITATION.

THE STRATEGY HAS NOT WORKED. DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS, STUDENT DISTURBANCES HAVE INCREASED. THEY HAVE BEEN DESECRATING PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND DENOUNCING MEXICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ.

THE ACCOMPANYING CABLE FROM MEXICO CITY TELLS OF PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ'S DECISION TO SHIFT BACK TO A GET-TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE POSTURE WITH THE STUDENTS. YESTERDAY THERE WERE CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SECURITY FORCES WITH SEVERAL CASUALTIES. THE SLUM DWELLERS HAVE NOW JOINED THE STUDENTS, ADDING AN UGLY NEW DIMENSION TO THE SITUATION. IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE MAY SEE AN INCREASED LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN MEXICO CITY.

AT THIS STAGE THE VIOLENCE IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT THE STABILITY OF THE DIAZ ORDAZ GOVERNMENT. BUT IT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE PRE-OLYMPIC ATMOSPHERE, WHICH IS PROBABLY WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE AFTER TO FORCE PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS.



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ACTION ARA 16

SANITIZED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4  
NJ 95-120  
By isp, NARA, Date 10-4-95

INFO RSR 01,SSO 00,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,  
NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 25,USIA 12,AID 28,PC 04,O 02,OPR 02  
OC 06,CCO 00,SAH 02,NIC 01,CU 04,EUR 15,FBO 01,SY 03,SCA 02,  
SCS 04, / 161 W

P. 290047Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7424

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MEXICO 6756

STUDENT SITUATION

- ...BONDRE
- ...BUDGET
- ...DAYS
- ...FRID
- ...GIMBURN
- ...HAMILTON
- ...JESSUP
- ...JOHNSON
- ...JOSSEN
- ...KEEY
- ...LUTWANT
- ...SAUNDERS
- ...TAYLOR

1-3  
(a)  
(5)

1.   
PRES. DIAZ ORDAZ HAS DECIDED TIME HAS COME TO PUT END TO STUDENT DISORDERS. HE WAS REPORTEDLY DEEPLY OFFENDED BY STUDENT SEIZURE OF NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND FLYING RED AND WHITE STRIKE BANNER ON NATIONAL FLAGPOLE IN ZOCALO.
2. SOURCE STATED THAT PRESIDENT HAS ORDERED ARMY, RIOT POLICE AND POLICE TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO BREAK UP ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND GATHERINGS. SOME CLASHES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES AND STUDENTS AND BETWEEN CAMPESINOS SUPPORTING GOVT AND STUDENTS. SEVERAL INJURED, SOME SERIOUSLY.
3. SOURCE EXPECTS INSTANCES OF ISOLATED VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT CITY IN NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS BY ROVING BANDS OF STUDENTS.
4. SOURCE ALSO STATES THAT STUDENT MOVEMENT WAS MASTERMINDED BY THREE WELL KNOWN COMMUNISTS: HEBERTO CASTILLO, FAUSTO TREJO AND ELI DE GORTARI. THESE MEN NOW HIDING ON CAMPUS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BUT WILL BE ARRESTED AS SOON AS THEY APPEAR OFF CAMPUS.
5. STUDENT GROUP SAID TO NUMBER ABOUT 1000 WAS BLOCKED FROM

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ZOCALO THIS AFTERNOON WITH SOME VIOLENCE REPORTED. LABOR-CAMPESINO GROUP REPORTEDLY 50,000 (PROBABLY EXAGGERATED) DEMONSTRATED IN SUPPORT GOVT.

6. AFTERNOON PRESS DENOUNCED STUDENT EXCESSES IN BANNER HEADLINES, QUOTING DEMANDS ALL SECTORS SOCIETY AND PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS THAT DISORDERS BE BROUGHT TO END.

7. ARMY DETACHMENT (WITHOUT ARMORED CARS) CONTINUES TO GUARD EMBASSY.  
FREEMAN

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