

SANITIZED COPY
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State *me/tp* *✓ Burby*

~~SECRET~~

Control: 18369
Rec'd: June 23, 1962
8:16 p.m.

46-M
Action

ARA
Info

SS
G
L

OIC
PR
P

USIA
SY
INR

CIA

FROM: Mexico City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

NIACT

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

THIS COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE

FILE

RMR In response to DEPTTEL 3985, our estimate is as follows:

First, appraisal of communist plans:

Groups normally hostile to US are: (1) Communist Party of Mexico (PCM), a small but well organized group which receives funds from Soviet Bloc Embassies. (2) The PCM controlled National Liberation Movement (MLN) which is sponsored by Lazaro Cardenas. The MLN has somewhat broader political base but is loosely organized. (3) Popular Socialist Party (PPS) a communist organization with a following somewhat larger than PCM and headed by Lombardo Toledano. (4) A small and politically unimportant group of Spanish communists and anarchists which in the past has cooperated with PCM. We should assume they will work with PCM during visit. (5) A small and politically unimportant group of Trotskyites who in past have not cooperated with PCM. (6) Miscellaneous groups of students and splinter labor organizations which are used as pawns by the PCM and Soviet Bloc Embassies. These groups while comparatively small in numbers are capable of leading agitation and of attracting others.

Outside the scope of this TEL are crackpots who operate individually or in very small groups and who from standpoint

~~SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

By: MNYC NARA Date: 1/8/94
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLK 998
SANITIZED

SECRET

-2- 3796, June 23, 3 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from Mexico City

of personal security of President must always be taken into account. Please note also we are proceeding on assumption, based largely on information available to us about nature of instructions to PCM, that Soviet interests would not be served by bodily harm to President Kennedy. We must defer to Department's judgment on this point and suggest that this caveat be given urgent consideration.

Of these groups PCM and its collaborators represent biggest problem. Its plans have been reported in detail by Legal Attache and Embassy in recent days in telegrams captioned "Presidential Visit". New element is instructions to PCM from Soviet Union to undertake vigorous anti-Kennedy propaganda campaign and to create disturbances with police using students and other pawns while avoiding direct involvement of PCM members. Objective of PCM campaign is to create impression Kennedy visit is unwelcome by the people of Mexico and secondarily to demonstrate repressive character of Mexican Government. On other hand, according our information, PCM plans no "direct action" against President Kennedy or members of his party.

Propaganda campaign is already well under way. MLN has recently held indoor "peace conference" meeting which passed resolutions protesting Kennedy visit, US nuclear testing and space station at Guaymas. On evening June 22, some 600 of 74,000 students at National University met on university campus where they protested from Mexican security forces by university "autonomy" to hear harangue by student speakers who protested Presidential visit and accused US of responsibility for the death of Jaramillo family, dumping salt in Mexicali Valley, anti-Communist measures recently taken by university Dean and for all the ills of Mexico. Effigy of figure some considered Uncle Sam and others President Kennedy was burned in public. This demonstration spearheaded by some half dozen communist student groups which turned out between 150-200 hard core agitators. This meeting adopted resolutions for agitation along route of motorcade from the airport on June

29 and

SECRET

15
SECRET

-3- 3796, June 23, 3 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from Mexico City

29 and called for another mass meeting at university on same date. Storage of leaflets, placards and other material for demonstrations in various parts of city has already commenced. Demonstrations by small groups on streets, buildings and on rooftops along route of motorcade and at Basilica also planned. If these PCM plans are executed and US press reports disturbances as representative of majority of Mexican people rather than very small organized minority, Communists could succeed in detracting from public relations impact of visit, particularly if through use of Molotov cocktails and other devices PCM succeeds in its probable desire of forcing clashes between demonstrators and Mexican security forces. Mexican press, which is largely controlled by government can be expected to play down any demonstrations. Please note this telegram directed to situation in federal district. Possibility exists of propaganda campaigns and small scale disturbances in various states outside of federal district.

MANN

AAL:JVC/3

Note: Advance copies to SS-0 and INR 6-24-62 CWO-M.

SECRET

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

15

46-M

SECRET

Control: 18370

Rec'd: June 23, 1962

8:16 p.m.

Action

ARA

FROM: Mexico City

Info

SS

TO: Secretary of State

G

L

NO: 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

OIC

PR

P

USIA

NIACT

SY

INR

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

CIA

THIS IS COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE

RMR

As reported recently by [redacted] in detail, PPS, which refused to participate in MLN meeting, is instructing its members to refrain from participation in plans. Sec. 3.4(b)(1)

Second, local measures being taken to counter plans:

Embassy believes Mexican Government has bona fide intention to prevent all incidents which will detract from visit. Embassy believes Government has capability of preventing any large-scale or serious demonstrations but it may not be able to prevent, for example, a group of a dozen students suddenly converging and whipping out placards or throwing Molotov cocktails at a police vehicle or at Embassy Office building with object creating a temporary and localized disturbance.

On other hand, there is every indication GOM, supported by large majority of Mexican people, has every intention of giving President Kennedy unprecedented welcome. Mexicans estimate more than million people in line motorcade route with friendly labor organizations, school groups, police, Frente Civico groups, government workers and police and military placed in strategic positions nearest street along entire motorcade route. Plans are that general public, including unfriendly minority elements, will be standing back from curbs. Government authorities state they will

take

SECRET

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

15

SECRET

-2- 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO), from: Mexico City
take usual precautions with buildings and rooftops.

Re Basilica, which we consider another difficult part of visit due to large crowds anticipated, large area in terrace near side entrance of Cathedral will be kept clear and people confined to streets and remaining part of terrace behind wooden barricades. Plainclothes police and military will be on 24-hour guard duty in advance of mass and will be scattered throughout crowd.

Usual precautions being taken on routes President and Mrs. Kennedy will travel. In addition, Mexican police have already begun rounding up elements considered dangerous amid unconfirmed reports which have created uncertainty in PCM ranks that Manuel Terrazas Guerrero, who is in charge of execution of PCM plan, was arrested then released after having been bribed by government. On other hand, large number of PCM members anticipating arrest have gone underground in district and in various states. Civilian police and military elements in Federal District are being reinforced by outlying areas.

While Mexican police and military authorities are having their customary difficulties coordinating with each other and agreeing on clear assignments of responsibility, Embassy believes these problems will be largely cleared up during next few days. We consider government plans and organization to be, on the whole, satisfactory at this time.

In respect of measures being taken by Embassy, we are passing on promptly to Mexican authorities all intelligence information received by us and are working closely with Campion advance party in working out security problems concerning visit. GOM is well informed concerning PCM plans and is actively working on counter measures. Gathering and reporting information on security President's visit has been first priority of Embassy for several weeks. Embassy coordination with GOM authorities at peak.

In sum, while we do not wish to underestimate importance of Soviet directive to PCM and money and organization available to that party, we believe GOM has will and ability to cope with PCM plan and that prospects of favorable total impression

from
SECRET

~~SECRET~~

-3- 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO) from Mexico city
from public relations point of view are relatively good.

Third, measures that might be taken in Washington:

We would appreciate immediate information concerning names of communists capable of cooperating with PCM who are known to Washington and who have recently arrived in Mexico or who may arrive before or during visit.

Embassy is recommending in separate telegram provision of US helicopters available for stand by during visit. Please note arrival of helicopters should not be related to security of President.

MANN

DMJ/TAB

Note: Advance copies to SS-0 and INR 6-24-62 CWO-M.

~~SECRET~~