By NARA Date 4-18-02

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EXDIS:

SUBJ: GROUP ALLEGED TO BE PLOTTING OUSTER OF ECHEVERRIA REF: A) MEXICO'S 3332; B) MEXICO'S 3381 Some CACOS NEW

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1. SUMMARY - LEGATT SOURCES REPORT INFORMATION, TRANSMITTED THUS FAR ONLY TO THEIR HEADQUARIERS IN WASHINGTON, THAT EX-FEDERAL DISTRICT REGENT ALFONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND OTHER POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN HOLDING MEETINGS AT WHICH THE POSSIBLE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. IF TRUE THIS IS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT ALTHOUGH NOT UNPRECEDENTED. IN THE MEXICAN POLITICAL CONTEXT IT IS A LONG WAY BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SORT AND ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A LEGATT REPORT (SECRET, NO FOREIGN DISSEMIN-ATIOND DATED JUNE 28, BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED JUNE 25, A GROUP! OF POLITICIANS HAVE HELD MEETINGS IN RECENT DAYS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FROM OFFICE. INDIVID-UALS SPECIFICALLY NAMED AS PARTICIPATING IN THESE MEETINGS ARE: ALFONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ (FORCED TO RESIGN AS FEDERAL DISTRICT REGENT ON JUNE 1510 COL. MANUEL DIAZ ESCOBAR (CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE HALCONES). MIGUEL OSORIO MARBAN (FORMER FEDERAL DEPUTY WITH MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND, FROM 1967-70, HEAD OF LA FORESTAL, A GOVERNMENT ENTITY CHARGED WITH AIDING ISTLE FIBER PRODUCERS), FLUVIO VISTA ALTAMIRANO (UNTIL RECENTLY, OFFICIAL MAYOR OF THE DEPARTTMENT OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT). AND EVERARDO GAMIZ FERNANDEZ (PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT PRI COMMITTEE).

3. THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY, DESCRIBED AS NOW IN THE EARLY TALKING STAGES, IS SAID TO BE MADE UP OF PERSONS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS

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A RESULT OF THE JUNE 10 DEMONSTRATION AND REPRESSION, OR WHO ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING THEIR POSITIONS SHORTLY. THEY ARE SAID TO BE DISGRUNTLED BECAUSE OF THEIR RECENT TREATMENT BY ECHEVERRIA, AND CLAIM, AS A CHIEF REASON FOR THEIR DISSATISFACTION, HIS REPEATED CONCESSIONS TO LEFIST DEMANDS. REPORTEDLY, THS PROFESSED INTENTION OF THE GROUP IS TO PROTECT MEXICO FROM BECOMING A MARXIST STATE AS THE RESULT OF WEAK LEADERSHIP.

- 4. OTHER DETAILS OF THE REPORT ARE THE FOLLOWING:
- A. THE CONSPIRATORS REALIZE THAT MEXICAN ARMY ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY AND WILL MAKE NO EFFORT TO REMOVE ECHEVERRIA WITHOUT IT.NO APPROACH HAS YET BEEN MADE TO MILITARY LEADERS.
- B. ALFONSO CORONA DEL ROSAL, FEDERAL DISTRICT RECENT FROM 1966 TO 1970, HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO ECHEVERRIA IN THE EVENT OF A COUPED ETAT. CORONA DEL ROSAL IS PRESENTLY VISITING SPAIN.
- C. EX-PRESIDENT LAZARO CARDENAS (WHO DIED IN OCTOBER, 1970) WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SELECTION OF ECHEVERRIA AS THE PRIPRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: WITH CARDENAS DEATH ECHEVERRIA LOST SUPPORT FROM OLDER ESTABLISHED POLITICIANS:
- D. SUBSEQUENT SECRET MEETINGS OF THE GROUP ARE TO BE HELD IN QUERETARO AND VALLE DE BRAVO (MEXICO STATE).
- 5. COMMENT. A SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED AS INDICATING, IF TRUE, THE DEGREE OF UNHAPPINESS RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVOKED IN THE MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ CAMP. IT SUGGESTS THAT NO BARGAIN WAS STRUCK AT THE TIME OF THE MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ RESIGNATION, EITHER ENSURING HIS AGAINST FURTHER IMPLICATION AS A RESULT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION OR PROTECTING VARIOUS OF HIS POLITICAL ALLIES WHO STILL RETAIN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL OR PARTY POSITIONS. IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ HAS MET WITH CLOSE POLITICAL ASSOCIATES SINCE HIS RESIGNATION ON JUEN 15, AND THAT THESE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE. THE DISCUSSIONS AT SUCH MEETINGS ARE PROBABLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ECHEVERRIA. THESE DISCUSSIONS MAY INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF AND POSSIBILITIES FOR REMOVING ECHEVERRIA AS PRESIDENT.
- 6. IN THIS SENSE THERE MAY BE, AS LEGATT SOURCES ALLEGE, AN

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INCIPIENT PLOT -- IN EARLY TALKING STAGES -- TO OVERTHROW ECHEVERRIA - IF SO, IT IS SERIOUS BUT NOT, WE JUDGE, UNPRECEDENTED - THERE WERE SIMILAR RUMORS OF A PLOT AGAINST DIZ ORDAZ DURING THE 1968 STUDENT DISTURBANCES - MANY OF LOPEZ MATEOS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DIAZ ORDAZ AND MAY WELL HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS , IN PROVATE, ABOUT HIS PRESIDENCY IN TERMS NO LESS ALARMING THAN THOSE NOW BEING ATTRIBUTED TO THE MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ GROUP WITH REFERENCE TO ECHEVERRIA - IN SHORI, IT IS A LONG JUMP IN THE MEXICAN POLITICAL CONTEXT FROM BACKROOM DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE COUPLTO ANY REASONABLE HOPE OF SUCCESS, MUCH LESS THE DECISION TO PROCEED.

7. IN THE STRONGE UNDERWOLD OF MEXICANPOLITICS IT MAY EVEN BE THAT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND HIS GROUP ARE NOT ADVERSE TO ECHEVERRIA HEARING RUMORS OF THEIR POSSIBLE PLOTTING. THAT HE HAS HEARD IS AT LEAST A GOOD PRESUMPTION. FORM THE MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ POINT OF VIEW SUCH RUMORS MAY SERVE THE PURPOSE OF WARNING ECHEVERRIA NOT TO MAKE FURTHER MOVES AGAINST HIS AND THE INTERESTS OF HIS ASSOCIATES.

8. PERPLEXING ASPECTS OF THE LEGATT REPORT ARE THE ATTRIBUTION OF "CONSERVATIVE-NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS" TO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND THOSE AROUND HIM, AND THE ASSERTION THAT CARDENAS SUPPORTED ECHEVERRIA, BY IMPLICATION AT LEAST, AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND OTHER POLITICIANS. THE EMBASSY HAS SOME INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ WAS HIMSELF THE MAIN POINT OF LIAISON BETWEEN CARDENAS AND DIAZ ORDAZ. NANY OF THE PERSONS FREQUENTLY PLACED IN THE MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ CAMP HAVE LONG RECORDS OF LEFTIST AFFILIATION AND ACTIVITY. IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ AND THOSE AROUND HIM CAN BE CANSIDERED IDEOLOGICALLY CONSERVATIVE EXCEPT, PERHAPS, IN A STRICTLY POLITICAL SENSE. IF BROADER IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES ARE REMOVED WE ARE LEFT WITH THE ALLEGED MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ CHARGE THAT

ECHEVERRIA IS EXERCISING WEAK LEADERSHIP. WE HAVE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE TO DATE TO SUPPORT THIS CONTENTION.

9. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH LEGATT AND CAS-. GP-2 MCBRIDE

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