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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 H-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-12 RBR-01 RSC-01 /067 W
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P 101841Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8109

SECRET MEXICO 3897

LIMDIS

SUBJ: MEXICAN POLICE TRAINING

REF A-MEXICO CITY 3886; REF B-STATE 123734

1. DCM MET FRIDAY NIGHT WITH FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI AND DISCUSSED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SET FORTH IN REF B. GALLASTEGUI WAS VISIBLY UPSET BY NEWS OF SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S INQUIRY AND DETAIL CONTAINED IN DEPT'S UNCLASSIFIED REPLY. HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS CONCERN THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT OR A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF MIGHT PUBLICIZE THIS INFORMATION IN WASHINGTON LEADING TO A REPLAY OF STORIES HERE.

2. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INQUIRY GREW OUT OF NEWS REPORT ORIGINATING IN MEXICO CITY JUNE 18 AND NOT FROM ANY INITIATIVE OR ATTENTION-GETTING DISCLOSURE IN WASHINGTON. WE ALSO TOOK NO ISSUE WITH USG'S UNDERSTANDABLE DECISION TO MAKE INFORMATION CONCERNING TRAINING AVAILABLE TO SENATOR FULBRIGHT ONCE IT HAD BEEN REQUESTED. HIS REAL CONCERN WAS THAT THE TRAINING PROGRAMED WHICH FONOFF HAD IN GOOD FAITH REQUESTED (WITH APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA) FOR USG AND PROVIDED, MIGHT NOW BE PUBLICIZED AND SUBJECTED TO PRESS DISTORTION WITH CONSEQUENT INJURY TO GOV, TO USG, AND PERHAPS TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. WE MADE A DETAILED RECORD OF DCM'S PRESENTATION, ESPECIALLY OF SUBSTANCE OF THE TWO LETTERS WHICH DCM

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CONVEYED TO HIM FROM HIS OWN NOTES, NOT HAVING - OR WANTING TO HAVE - ACTUAL TEXTS OF LETTERS AT HAND DURING THIS MEETING. GALLASTEGUI NATURALLY REFRAINED FROM MAKING OR IMPLYING ANY CRITICISM WHATSOEVER OF USG IN THIS MATTER, ALTHOUGH HE DID FOCUS SEVERAL TIMES ON DATE - JUNE 25 - OF SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S INCOMING LETTER AND FACT THAT WE HAD ALREADY REPLIED - PRESUMABLY JULY 9 - TO THAT LETTER BEFORE EVEN MENTIONING IT TO GOM. HE INDICATED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT USG HAD KEPT SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER FROM GOM ESPECIALLY SINCE MEXICANS HAD TRIED TO WORK SO CLOSELY WITH US ON THIS PROBLEM. DCM SAID INCOMING LETTER HAD PROBABLY RECEIVED ROUTINE HANDLING IN THE BUREAUCRACY, ACCOUNTING FOR MUCH PASSAGE OF TIME, AND THAT REPLY OF TYPE MADE WAS CLEARLY UNAVOIDABLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WAS ACTUALLY A SKILLFULLY DRAFTED LOW KEY LETTER WITH BEST HOPE OF LAYING MATTER TO REST. GALLASTEGUI GAVE NO INDICATION WHETHER OR NOT HE ACCEPTED THIS.

4. GALLASTEGUI SAID HE WOULD INFORM FONSEC RABASA AT ONCE, AND THAT RABASA UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD INFORM "HIGHER AUTHORITY" IMMEDIATELY. HE DIDN'T KNOW IF GOM WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH US LATER FRIDAY NIGHT OR THIS WEEKEND BUT LEFT THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN. (COMMENT: AS OF 11 A.M. SATURDAY MORNING WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER.) GALLASTEGUI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP GOM INFORMED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COORDINATE CLOSELY ON DEALING WITH ANY FURTHER PROBLEM THAT AROSE AS A RESULT OF THIS TRAINING PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY OR PUBLIC DISTORTION OF PROGRAM.

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