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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4069

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SUBJECT: POLICE TRAINING

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA DISCUSSED WITH ME YESTERDAY SUBJECT OF MEXICAN POLICE TRAINING IN UNITED STATES. HE WAS QUITE RELAXED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CONNECTING THIS TRAINING WITH EVENTS OF JUNE 10. HE SAID THAT OF COURSE IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THIS SUBJECT WERE AGAIN RAISED IN THE PRESS. HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED THAT IF IT WERE, MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DENY EMPATICALLY THAT TRAINEES IT HAD SENT TO UNITED STATES HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH "HALCONES" AND THE ATTACKS AGAINST STUDENT DEMOSTRATORS. MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT ON JUNE 10, ALL OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF TRAINEES HAD BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE FIRST TO RETURN HAD NOT COME BACK UNTIL A MONTH AFTER THESE EVENTS.

2. RABASA SAID THAT BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE NATURE OF OUR POLICE TRAINING PROGRAM AND OF COURSE CONTINUED TO RECOGNIZE THAT SENDING MEXICAN STUDENTS THERE HAD BEEN AS THE RESULT OF MEXICAN INITIATIVE. EXEMPT. RCBRIDE

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