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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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P 021914Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8747

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION I OF 4 MEXICO 5014
SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S REPORT TO THE NATION
REF: A) MEXICO 4995 B) MEXICO 4991 C) MEXICO 4955

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DELIVERED HIS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NATION BEFORE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 1. SPEECH LASTED TWO HOURS 50 MINUTES AND WAS INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE 31 TIMES, INCLUDING 13 STANDING OVATIONS (USUALLY WHEN NATIONALISTIC AND PARTIOTIC THEMES SOUNDED). FOCUS WAS PRIMARILY ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION IN NINE MONTHS TO DATE. THERE WERE ONLY OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO ADMINISTRATIONS'S FUTURE PLANS. MEXICO CITY SERIOUS DISTURBANCE OF JUNE 10 WAS HANDLED WITH DELICACY, AND PROMISE OF REPORT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS RENEWED. TREATMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WAS AS REPORTED REFS A) AND B) EXCEPT FOR OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH DEALING WITH BRACEROS (PARA 9, REF A). END SUMMARY

2. ATMOSPHERICS. ECHEVERRIA BROKE WITH TRADITION BY WALKING, RATHER THAN RIDING, THE SIX OR SEVEN BLOCKS FROM NATIONAL PALACE TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND BACK AGAIN.

(2)

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HIS SPEECH WAS THREE MINUTES SHORTER THAN FINAL INFORME BY DIAZ ORDAZ ONE YEAR AGO AND WAS INTERRUPTED 32 TIMES MORE. ALTHOUGH APPLAUSE ON MANY OCCASIONS SEEMED MORE ORCHESTRATED THAN SPONTANEOUS, AMONG MOST ENTHUSIASTIC OVATIONS WERE TWO FOR MRS. ECHEVERRIA (AT MENTION OF HER SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES AND LATER OF HER EARTHQUAKE-RELIEF VISIT TO CHILE) AND ONE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF 1972 AS "YEAR OF JUAREZ," COMMEMORATING CENTENARY OF HIS DEATH. IN EFFECT, SPEECH WAS PRIMARILY AN ACCOUNTING OF FACT ACHIEVEMENTS, THERE WAS LITTLE BY WAY OF PROBLEM ANALYSIS (WITH SOME GENERALIZED DISCUSSION OMITTED FROM PREPARED TEXT, PRESUMABLY TO SAVE TIME) AND FEW INDICATIONS OF FUTURE ACTIONS BY GOM. YET BY MEXICAN STANDARDS INFORME PROBABLY HAD PROPER PACE AND TONE. ONE PURPOSE, CLEARLY, WAS TO FURTHER IMPRESSION OF VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVELY MEETING CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY. A KEY PHRASE, USED BY ECHEVERRIA AND ECHOED BY CHAMBER PRESIDENT LUIS DUCOING GAMBA IN HIS 25-MINUTE RESPONSE, WAS, "TO GOVERN IS TO COORDINATE." NET EFFECT OF RHETORIC WAS THAT GOM PLAYS KEY ROLE IN ORCHESTRATING ALL THAT IS GOOD AND PROGRESSIVE. FINALLY, RELATIVELY BRIEF TREATMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY IS BOTH CHARACTERISTIC OF INFORMES AND REPRESENTATIVE OF HEAVY CONCENTRATION BY PRESENT GOM ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. INTERNAL POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS. MOST OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS RELEVANT TO INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS WERE CONTAINED IN EIGHT-PAGE OPENING SECTION ENTITLED "JUDICIAL ORDER." IN IT, AFTER REFERENCE TO SUPREMACY OF THE LAW, EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW AND RECENT LEGISLATIVE REFORMS, HE MENTIONED DRUG PROBLEM AS ONE OF "SOCIAL PHENOMENA CHARACTERISTIC OF CONTEMPORARY WORLD WHICH FLOW ACROSS BORDERS." SAID THAT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GOM AND US AUTHORITIES WERE PROCEEDING IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITH GOAL OF COORDINATING EFFORTS TO COMBAT PRODUCTION, TRAFFIC AND USE OF HALLUCINOGENICS, MARIJUANA AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. ADDED THAT CAMPAIGN BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, WITH ASSISTANCE OF ARMY, HAD SHOWN SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN DESTROYING BREWING AREAS, SEIZING DRUGS, AND ARRESTING TRAFFICKERS.

4. PRESIDENT NEXT MENTIONED ARREST OF 19 PERSONS IN

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MARCH WHO HAD CONFESSED TO COMMITTING ASSAULTS AND ROBBERIES AND TO FORMING PART OF SUBVERSIVE GROUP TRAINED IN NORTH KOREA IN ORDER TO COMMIT CRIMES AND SUBVERT CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN MEXICO. (THERE WAS NO MENTION HERE OF ATTENDANT EXPULSION OF FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS. EECHEVERRIA THEN NOTED THAT MAJORITY OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL PROCESS "FOR CRIMES COMMITTED DURING 1968 DISTURBANCES" HAD BEEN RELEASED, EITHER OUTRIGHT OR ON APPEAL.

5. HE NEXT REFERRED TO EVENTS OF JUNE 10, "A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN THE STREETS OF MEXICO CITY BROKEN UP BY ARMED SHOCK-TROOPS." HE CONDEMNED AGGRESSION EMPLOYED AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND MEXICAN AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS COVERING THE EVENT WHICH RESULTED IN "DOZENS OF PERONS INJURED AND SEVERAL DEAD." THESE FACTS, HE SAID, DESERVE CONDEMNATION OF ALL SECTORS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER. (THIS WAS AS CLOSE AS PRESIDENT CAME TO ACKNOWLEDGING GENERALLY-CREDITED CITY HALL ROLE IN JUNE 10 EVENTS.) HE THEN RECALLED HAVING ORDERED INVESTIGATION OF JUNE 10 AND SAID HE HAD CONFIRMED (IMPLICITLY, THROUGH APPOINTMENT OF NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL) THAT INVESTIGATION BE DEEPENED AND ACTIVELY PURSUED. THIS PASSAGE CONCLUDED WITH "CATEGORICAL" PRESIDENTIAL CONDEMNATION OF EVENTS OF JUNE 10. (AT NO POINT DID EECHEVERRIA MENTION FORCED RESIGNATIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL SANCHEZ VARGAS, FEDERAL REGENT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ OR MEXICO CITY POLICECHIEF, AND IN PRESS INTERVIEW AUGUST 31 HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CABINET CHANGES. MESSAGE LIKEWISE IGNORED RESIGNATION OF NUEVO LEON GOVERNOR ELIZONDO LAST SPRING BUT DID EMPHASIZE UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY IN SUBSEQUENT SECTION ON EDUCATION).

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