

Authority NND 96900
By JAF Date 3/2/02

ORIGIN/ACTION

ARA-10		
REP	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	3	IO
L	FBO	AID
		O/FSI
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
14	20	5
DSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
		NSC

PASS-1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 23-8 MEX
XR POL 18.1 MEX
FOR RM USE ONLY

A-37
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

TO : Department of State

Dept Pass: Amembassy MEXICO

FROM : Amconsul MERIDA

SUBJECT : Armed Clash highlights Pre-election Campaign

REF :

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MEXICAN AFFAIRS
AUG 8 1969 3 39 PM
RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH
DATE: 31 July 1969
EACH
12W
AID

DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG 8 1969
APPA/MEX
8/11/69

On July 20, PRI activists stopped a PAN delegation from entering the city of Tekax in southern Yucatan by blocking the highway with rocks and timbers. The resulting shoot-out left five wounded. Four PAN activists were arrested and then released. On July 27 ~~approximately~~ the Tekax PAN chairman Vicente ROMERO Castillo was ~~re~~arrested and charged with violence and assault against the public order.

Before the arrest of ROMERO, a well informed PRI official told the reporting officer that the Tekax clash had been deliberately provoked by hard line PRIistas who have been increasingly unhappy with the rural successes of travelling PAN delegations. An official of the Dirreccion de Averiguaciones Previas in Yucatan indirectly confirmed this accusation when he told the reporting officer that his office had dropped its investigation of the Tekax incident when the subject became extremely sensitive politically. (The arrest of ROMERO took place after this official had left Yucatan for the United States to attend a professional conference.)

In separate incidents, two more municipal governments have been ousted-- Tzucacab and Huhi-- as the state PRI continues to strengthen its position for the November election. The mini-coups in Tzucacab and Huhi, in contrast to the Tekax clash, were bloodless. Several sources have said that both were instigated by State Deputy Rafael ROMERO Vasquez who charged both municipal government with being crypto-PANistas. ROMERO is a protege of Governor TORRES M. of Yucatan and handles the latter's extensive cattle ranching business in southern Yucatan (which is also the former's electoral district) ROMERO, who also recently was reported as trying to oust the Peto municipal government, may hope to reinforce his personal position by delivering his District intact to the PRI in November.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

FORM 4-62 DS-323

In Out

Drafted by:

TCBrown

Contents and Classification Approved by:

TCBrown

Clearances:

AUG 6 PM 4 33

COPYFLO-PBR

Authority NND 969000
By JAF Date 3/21/02

CONFIDENTIAL

MERIDA A-37

In an aside during lunch, Luis PERAZA, a minor PRI functionary told the reporting officer that he considers the entire campaign irrelevant, since the PRI is going to win the November election in any event. When asked why he was so certain, PERAZA smiled and replied, "one third of Yucatan's votes are from Merida, but the other two-thirds are from the countryside— and election results are much easier to arrange there."

COMMENT: The Consulate believes that the PRI has decided to win the State gubernatorial election at almost any cost. Given the pro-PAN sentiment in the state, this means force and pressure rather than persuasion. Although the PRI is no doubt capable of electing a Governor over all opposition, their methods will contribute to the ~~stage~~ possibility of increasing violence in the rural areas as the election draws nearer.

BROWN *AB*

CONFIDENTIAL