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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MEXICO 7830

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF STUDENT DISORDERS

REF: STATE 254890

1. SUMMARY BEGINS. MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSION IS THAT TO DATE MEXICAN SYSTEM HAS STOOD UP WELL UNDER STUDENT ONSLAUGHT. TRADITIONAL IMAGE OF STABILITY MARRIED BUT STUDENTS RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM OTHER SECTORS. REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF STUDENTS INVOLVED HARD TO ESTIMATE. MASS STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN FEDERAL DISTRICT TO LARGE DEGREE CONSTITUED REACTION TO GOM TOUGH TACTICS.

2. POST-OLYMPIC COURSE DIFFICULT TO FORESEE. GOVT HAS MADE NEW ENEMIES, LEFT ENCOURAGED BY PRE-OLYMPIC SUCCESSES. ON OTHER HAND, GOM CAN ACT WITH MUCH GREATER FLEXIBILITY WITHOUT OLYMPIC DEADLINE. GOM SEEMS DISPOSED TOWARD MODERATION BUT IS KNOWN TO BE WORRIED ABOUT STUDENT RESURGENCE AND MAY MOVE TO HARSHER POLICIES IF STUDENTS DO NOT RESPOND.

3. POLITICALLY, STUDENT DISORDERS HAVE BROUGHT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SHIFT TO RIGHT AS ARMY PLAYING GREATER ROLE, NEW DAMPER PUT ON EXTENDING SCOPE OF DISSENT. SOME RESIDENTIAL PRE-CANDIDATES MAY ALSO HAVE SUFFERED POLITICALLY. HOWEVER, BASIC PRI STRUCTURE NOT SHAKEN AND, IF TRADITION HOLDS, GOM MAY MAKE SOME BALANCING MOVE, NOT NECESSARILY IN STUDENT AREA TO PLACATE LEFT WING OF ESTABLISHMENT.

4. LONG TERM EFFECTS DEPEND ON HOW MUCH FURTHER AGITATION GOES AND HOW IT ENDS. GOM ALREADY TAKING MORE SERIOUS LOOK

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AT EDUCATION REFORM, MAY TAKE HARDER LOOK AT ROLE OF LEFT, ESPECIALLY NEW LEFT, ON CAMPUS AND MAY IMPROVE ITS INTELLIGENCE ABOUT CAMPUS MOODS, BUT PROSPECTS OF WINNING GENERAL STUDENT SUPPORT ARE SLIM. MORE GENERALLY, STUDENT UNREST MAY REPRESENT WARNING THAT REGIME FACES NEW TESTS OF ITS PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED SKILL IN COMBINING CONTROL WITH FLEXIBILITY AS MEXICAN SOCIETY REACHING POINT WHERE CONTROLS OF PAST NOT EASILY ACCEPTED BY NEW GENERATION AND WHERE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SIDETRACKED IN INTERESTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION NOW MAKING THEIR APPEARANCE. END SUMMARY.

5. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS. EMBTEL 5481 OF 14 JUNE 1968 PROVIDED GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN MEXICO WHICH, IN OUR VIEW REMAINS VALID.

6. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN IS THAT TO DATE POLITICAL-SOCIAL SYSTEM HAS STOOD UP UNDER STUDENT ATTACK VERY WELL. NOTWITHSTANDING INTENSIVE STUDENT EFFORT INCLUDING USE OF LEAFLETS AND "FLYING BRIGADES" SEEKING TO ENLIST PUBLIC SUPPORT, LABOR AND CAMPESENO LEADERSHIP STOOD FIRMLY IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND EROSION OF RANK AND FILE FROM LEADERSHIP WAS INSIGNIFICANT. WITH EVIDENCE AT HAND, IT IS DIFFICULT TO VIEW THESE IMPORTANT SECTORS AS SEETHING WITH DISCONTENT. URBAN POOR LIKEWISE REMAINED APART FROM THE STUDENT MOVEMENT. THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE OF MIDDLE CLASS SUPPORT BUT THIS WAS NEITHER ORGANIZED NOR ON LARGE SCALE. UPPER CLASSES--BUSINESS, FINANCIAL INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY WERE GENERALLY BEHIND GOVT. FINALLY, POLICE AND MILITARY SHOWED NO WAVERING IN THEIR LOYALTY. WHILE SOME OF MORE EXTREME STUDENTS TALKED OF REVOLUTION, IT CAN WELL BE ASKED: IF REVOLUTION, BY WHOME? THE STUDENTS, ALONE, LACK STRENGTH IN MEXICO SERIOUSLY TO THREATEN STABILITY OF GOVT.

7. THOUGH IMAGE OF STABILITY MARRED, STUDENT DISTURBANCES DID NOT SHAKE BASIC ELEMENTS OF MEXICAN REGIME. GOM AND PRI CONTINUE TO HOLD MAJOR LEVERS OF POWER IN THEIR HANDS. CRITICISM OF GDO MAY HAVE BROKEN ICE ON SACROSANCTITY OF OFFICE, BUT NO ONE IS CHALLENGING PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM AND SIX YEAR LIMIT ON PRESIDENTIAL TERM MAY KEEP CRITICISM FOCUSED ON INCUMBENT RATHER THAN SYSTEM. CRITICISM AND DISCONTENT, WHICH ARE ALWAYS PRESENT IN ANY COUNTRY, DO NOT EQUATE TO REVOLUTIONARY PRESSURES, AND MOST PERSONS CRITICAL OF GOVT

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PROBABLY WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE IT OVERTHROWN AND PROBABLY WILL VOTE FOR PRI IN NEXT ELECTION. AFTER SIX DEMANDS, APPEALS OF STUDENTS ARE SO GENERAL IN NATURE AS TO SUGGEST THAT THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE IN MIND. AND EXCEPT FOR THOSE CALLING FOR REVOLUTION, MOST CALL MERELY FOR BETTER OPERATION OF SYSTEM IN BEING. DISSATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC ORDER FORCES, WHICH IS INEVITABLY PRESENT, PROBABLY HAS INCREASED AND ANTI-POLICE FOCUS OF STUDENT DEMANDS PROBABLY HAS CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY. HOWEVER, THIS BALANCED BY FEAR WHICH HAS BEEN ENGENDERED BY ACTIONS OF THESE FORCES. SOME CAPITAL OUTFLOW AND POSTPONEMENT PLANNED INVESTMENTS EVIDENT BUT DID NOT REACH SERIOUS PROPORTIONS, AND DAMAGE PROBABLY NOT PERMANENT IF SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL.

8. ANALYSIS OF STUDENT MOVEMENT. WHILE IT IS APPARENT THAT STUDENT MOVEMENT RECEIVED LITTLE ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM OTHER IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF POPULATION, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE EXTENT TO WHICH MOVEMENT WAS INDICATIVE OF OR RESPONSIVE TO ATTITUDES WIDELY HELD BY MEXICAN YOUTH IN GENERAL OR EVEN BY STUDENT POPULATION. STUDENT POPULATION IS, OF COURSE, ONLY SMALL FRACTION OF MEXICAN YOUTH, AND TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT REST OF MEXICAN YOUTH VIEW STUDENT STRIKE LEADERSHIP AS THEIR SPOKESMEN. SUPPORT BY STUDENT GROUPS IN SCHOOLS OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY BUT HAS NOT HAD AS GREAT IMPACT AS THAT GENERATED IN THESE SCHOOLS BY LOCAL ISSUES AND TO CONSIDERABLE FREEMAN

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