

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Origin

ACTION: Amembassy MEXICO

Info:

STATE

1. Considerable interest as well as great uneasiness has been stirred here by recent student disorders. There is particular concern as to what these events reveal about Mexico's social and political fabric. There is thus very strong need felt here for deep analysis both of nature of recent events as well as of what is likely to happen in near future. Cumulative effect upon US-Mexican relations naturally of prime interest. Embassy is therefore requested to submit the following two assessments.
2. Analysis of events. Embassy should submit as soon as it can comprehensive CT analysis of recent disorders. This should cover not only analysis of student phenomenon itself but how it relates to the broader political, economic and social picture, if indeed it does. What do the student disorders reveal of what is happening in Mexico today and of what is likely to happen tomorrow? Following points of special interest here are

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Drafted by:

ARA/MEX: MChaplin: MChaplin: Tel. Ext. 5203  
ARA:VPVaky:md 10/14/68

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

ARA:VPVaky

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provided as guides but the analysis should not necessarily be limited to these points:

a. Nature of unrest. What accounts for unprecedented numbers supporting demonstrations in Federal District, while provincial demonstrations unremarkable? Do protesters include sizeable numbers of students, other than extremists, so alienated from current Mexican society that marginal reform measures will not moderate their protests? Can GOM compromise dispute or would offers compromise result in escalation demands by students?

b. Implications for Diaz Ordaz administration. Effect on President's political power, and effect on institution of Mexican presidency. Effect on factions within administration and on military. Will bloodshed discredit public order forces? Do violence of demonstrations and direct criticism Diaz Ordaz establish new norms for expression discontent in Mexico? Does student dissatisfaction with press domination by Government herald increased freedom of press?

c. Implications for PRI. Can PRI build effective student organization? What impact on pace and direction modernization and reform of PRI? Can party regain student confidence and if so by what reforms?

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d. Labor, rural and urban unemployed. Is leadership organized labor in firm control or will dissident factions or unions multiply? To what extent are student grievances (specifically police brutality) shared by rank and file labor and urban masses? Will student efforts mobilize support among rural and urban unemployed materialize and meet success?

3. Contingency analysis. CT analysis of likely political, social and economic contingencies over next six to twelve months, and if possible over longer time frame. What is desired is a projection of the probable alternative "scenarios" of what is likely to happen in Mexico in this period, and of what US response should and could be in each scenario. This is meant to be a comprehensive analysis and not confined to or focused on students, though student matter is obviously important element in it. US-Mexican relations should be given special look in this contingency/scenario analysis.

4. Department realizes that foregoing is tall order and that much of what is requested can be little more than tentative judgment and even conjecture. Nevertheless rigorous intellectual exercise of this kind is badly needed and urgently sought.

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