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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE
IN 03644

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OCT 2 1968

COUNTRY MEXICO

DCI 1 OCTOBER 1968

SUBJECT SITUATION APPRAISAL, STUDENT CAPABILITY TO CAUSE
DISRUPTION TO THE OLYMPICS

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SOURCE

1. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS OF
1 OCTOBER 1968, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL ORDER TO THE EXTENT THAT
THERE WILL BE NO SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF THE OLYMPIC EVENTS
SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 12-27 OCTOBER 1968.

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2. DURING EARLIER STAGES OF THE CURRENT PERIOD OF UNREST, STUDENT LEADERS AND THE NATIONAL STRIKE COUNCIL (CNH) HAD SEIZED UPON THE OLYMPICS AS A VULNERABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE STUDENTS THROUGH THREAT AND INTIMIDATION. THE CNH DID, IN FACT, RESORT TO THIS MEANS OF APPLYING PRESSURE IN AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ ON 18 SEPTEMBER. THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED THIS ATTEMPT AT BLACKMAIL, UNEQUIVOCALLY AND EMPHATICALLY. MORE RECENTLY THE CNH HAS REPEATEDLY DENIED HAVING ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH THE FORTHCOMING GAMES-- BUT THE CNH AGAIN ON THE NIGHT OF 30 SEPTEMBER STATED IT WOULD, IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED, HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE OLYMPICS.

3. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED ASSURANCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE THAT THE STUDENT SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, BUT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS DETERMINATION TO PROTECT OLYMPIC INSTALLATIONS AND VISITING ATHLETES FROM ANY HARM OR DISTRACTION. THE UNPRECEDENTED OCCUPATION OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ON 18 SEPTEMBER BY ARMY TROOPS WAS PROBABLY PROVOKED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF STUDENTS TO ABANDON PLANS TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION AT OLYMPIC VILLAGE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. ARMY

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TROOPS WERE STATIONED AT OLYMPIC VILLAGE UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF 30 SEPTEMBER, AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT AGENTS OF THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL SECURITY WERE ASSIGNED ALSO TO THAT INSTALLATION. AT LEAST ONE STUDENT EMPLOYED AT OLYMPIC VILLAGE HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR POSTING HANDBILLS CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT MUST, THEREFORE, BE CLEARLY APPARENT TO ANYONE WHO HAS DESIGNS ON THE OLYMPICS AS A TARGET FOR SABOTAGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BROOK NO INTERFERENCE.

4. IT IS LIKELY THAT, WHEREAS THE LEADERS OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT PROFESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE, THEY WILL NOT BE AVERSE TO MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN TO THE THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN VISITORS PRESENT IN MEXICO FOR THE OLYMPIC EVENTS, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE REPRESENTING THE WORLD'S NEWS SERVICES. ATTEMPTS TO PROPAGANDIZE THE STUDENT MOVEMENT, BEFORE TELEVISION CAMERAS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE TO BE EXPECTED.

5. ANY ESTIMATE, SUCH AS THIS ONE, OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF INTENTIONAL ACTS DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENCE OF RADICALS AND EXTREMISTS WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT. SUCH PERSONS AND GROUPS DO EXIST IN MEXICO. THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, TROTSKYISTS, MAOISTS,

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CASTROISTS, ANARCHISTS, AND OTHERS, AND IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT CERTAIN OF THESE ARE PLANNING TO SABOTAGE THE OLYMPIC GAMES. THEIR NUMERICAL STRENGTH IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE GREAT ENOUGH TO ENABLE THEM TO CREATE SERIOUS DISTURBANCES; BUT THEY DOUBTLESS HAVE LIMITED CAPABILITY; AND PROBABLY THE INTENTION, TO CAUSE DISRUPTION TO PUBLIC UTILITIES SUCH AS ELECTRIC POWER AND TELEPHONE SERVICES, AND TO ENGAGE IN ANY SIMILAR ACTS OF MISCHIEF AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE SCENE OF OLYMPIC ACTIVITIES WHERE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE IS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS FAMILIAR WITH TACTICS SUCH AS THESE, AND IS TAKING MEASURES TO PROTECT THE MORE VITAL INSTALLATIONS.

6. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, IN PREPARING FOR ITS ROLE AS HOST FOR THE NINETEENTH OLYMPIAD, HAS ACCOMPLISHED WHAT MANY SKEPTICS THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE. THE EVENT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO MOST MEXICANS, AND THIS FACT IS NOT LOST ON THOSE WHO MIGHT CONSPIRE TO DESTROY A VITAL WORK. BUT THESE CONSPIRATORS KNOW ALSO THAT THE SAME DEGREE OF DEDICATION THAT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN CREATING THE OLYMPIC SCENE WILL BE APPLIED IN DEFENDING IT.

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