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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

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13 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI : 13 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

AC :

SOURCE :

1. THE MEXICO CITY GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED A PERMIT FOR THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WHICH IS TO BEGIN AT 1600 HOURS ON 13 AUGUST 1968 AT THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (IPN) AND END AT THE ZOCALO. APPROXIMATELY FORTY THOUSAND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION, MOST OF THEM FROM IPN AND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAM).

COMMENT: THIS DEMONSTRATION IS CONSIDERED TO MARK THE CRISIS IN THE PRESENT PERIOD OF STUDENT DISORDERS. IF ALL GOES WELL, WITH NO VIOLENCE, THE TENSION SHOULD SUBSIDE AND CONDITIONS SHOULD BEGIN TO RETURN TO NORMAL. IF VIOLENCE SHOULD

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ERUPT AND FORCE IS REQUIRED TO RESTORE ORDER, THE SITUATION WILL  
DETERIORATE ACCORDINGLY. [REDACTED]

2. CONTRARY TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, NO STUDENTS HAVE RETURNED  
TO CLASSES EITHER AT IPN OR AT UNAM. AT AN ASSEMBLY OF THE  
STUDENT STRIKE MOVEMENT HELD AT UNAM ON THE EVENING OF 12 AUGUST,  
COMMUNIST LEADERS LECTURED ON THE ACTIONS TO BE PURSUED IN A  
GIVEN NUMBER OF ALTERNATE SITUATIONS THAT COULD ARISE DURING THE  
DEMONSTRATION ON 13 AUGUST. THEY ADVISED DEMONSTRATORS TO TAKE  
REFUGE IN THE CITY'S CHURCHES IF THEY WERE "PERSECUTED", AND  
THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD PROVOKE THE ARMY INTO  
ENTERING THE CHURCHES, AN ACT WHICH WOULD BRING THE WRATH OF THE  
ENTIRE MEXICAN POPULATION DOWN ON THE GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

3. STUDENTS AT IPN WERE TOLD BY DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS  
TO AVOID CLASHES WITH RIOT POLICE ON 13 AUGUST BECAUSE SPECIAL  
"STRIKE FORCES" WERE BEING ORGANIZED AMONG THE DEMONSTRATORS TO  
COPE WITH ANY ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR MARCH. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

4. ON THE EVENING OF 12 AUGUST, A MINOR UNAM OFFICIAL SOUGHT TO EXCUSE HIMSELF AND OTHER UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES BY STATING THAT THE STUDENT PROBLEM WAS NO LONGER A UNIVERSITY MATTER OR ONE WHICH THE UNIVERSITY COULD SOLVE. HE SAID THAT THOSE TAKING A HAND IN THESE MATTERS INCLUDED MAYOR CORONA DEL ROSAL, MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY EMILIO MARTINEZ MATAUTOU, AND SEVERAL EMBASSIES, SPECIFICALLY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND THAT IN THE FACE OF SUCH AN ARRAY OF POWERS THE UNAM WAS UNABLE TO ACT. HE ADDED THAT ECHEVERRIA WAS CONSIDERED TO BE AN ENEMY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

[REDACTED]

5. ON 13 AUGUST, UNIVERSITY AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE STATES OF VERACRUZ, TABASCO, MORELOS AND PUEBLA INITIATED WORK STOPPAGES, SOME TOTAL AND OTHERS PARTIAL, IN SUPPORT OF THE IPN AND UNAM STUDENTS. SEVEN HUNDRED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN

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TWENTY BUSES LEFT MORELOS ON THE MORNING OF 13 AUGUST FOR MEXICO CITY.

6. [Redacted] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY FBI CROSS.

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