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IN 91972

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DIST 14 SEPTEMBER 1968

COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI: 13 SEPTEMBER 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

ACG:

SOURCE:

1. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF MARCHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1968 IN MEXICO CITY RANGE FROM FIFTY THOUSAND PASSING THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AS CALCULATED BY OBSERVERS AT THE EMBASSY, TO SEVENTY THOUSAND PASSING A POINT APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILE BEYOND THE EMBASSY, AS JUDGED BY AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST OBSERVER, TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND, A FIGURE DECIDED UPON BY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. AT THE ZOCALO, THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE MARCHERS,

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(b)(3)
(c)

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ESTIMATED A CONGREGATION OF SEVENTY-FIVE TO EIGHTY THOUSAND PERSONS, INCLUDING BYSTANDERS. AS OF 2115 HOURS, THE DEMONSTRATION WAS BEGINNING TO BREAK UP. DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES RELATED TO THE DEMONSTRATION.

2. AS ADVERTIZED, THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS A "SILENT" ONE,

WITH STUDENT GRIEVANCES PROCLAIMED THROUGH THOUSANDS OF BANNERS AND PLACARDS. THE MARCHERS WERE APPLAUDED ALONG THE ROUTE, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN TO WHAT EXTENT THIS WAS INSPIRED BY CLAQUES, WHOSE PRESENCE WAS REPORTED BY SOME OBSERVERS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS ORDERLY, THE DEMONSTRATION LACKED THE EVIDENCES OF ORGANIZATION THAT CHARACTERIZED THE PREVIOUS MARCH ON 27 AUGUST. UNLIKE THE EARLIER EVENT, NO INSTANCES OF VANDALISM, SUCH AS THE PAINTING OF SLOGANS ON SIDEWALKS OR WALLS, WERE OBSERVED. BANNERS AND PLACARDS VENTILATED THE FULL RANGE OF STUDENT COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT THEY LACKED THE OFFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THOSE EXHIBITED IN THE EARLIER DEMONSTRATION. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THEM WERE THE SAME AS THOSE USED PREVIOUSLY, AND THE REMAINDER CONSISTED MAINLY OF SLOGANS APPEALING TO THE POPULACE TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

3. LABOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMONSTRATION IS ESTIMATED

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AT ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE TAXI DRIVERS, ONE HUNDRED PETROLEUM WORKERS AND A SMALL NUMBER OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS. OTHER UNIVERSITIES IDENTIFIED BY THEIR PLACARDS WERE FROM THE STATES OF PUEBLA, SINALOA AND VERACRUZ.

4. ORGANIZER OF THE DEMONSTRATION ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS BEFORE THE MARCH BEGAN THAT BANNERS AND PLACARDS PROMOTING FOREIGN CAUSES, SUCH AS PRAISE OF CHE GUEVARA, WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED.

5. [REDACTED] ISSER: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT
REPORT CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

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