

Helms informed
BKS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Friday, September 27, 1968, 4:00 P. M.

*K. C. S.
5-7*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Security Considerations in Mr. Nixon's Planned Visit to Mexico

Director Helms is forwarding to you the attached CIA memorandum citing the potential dangers inherent in a visit to Mexico City October 15 which Mr. Nixon is planning.

The Secret Service has the legal responsibility for the security of Candidate Nixon under the provisions of the June 6, 1968, Joint Resolution. CIA is furnishing pertinent information to the Secret Service. Mr. Helms is indirectly asking whether he should also provide information directly to Mr. Nixon.

I believe it would be best to deal with Mr. Nixon on this subject through the Secret Service. If Mr. Nixon actually goes through with his plan and there are questions about whether he had been informed by CIA of the dangers of the trip, the response would be that Director Helms had made available to the Secret Service all information CIA had on the security situation in Mexico, in accordance with the Joint Resolution, bearing on this subject.

Put on my desk

W. Rostow

Tell Director Helms to send his information to the Secret Service only.

Tell Helms that he should be responsible for getting security information to Mr. Nixon, in addition to sending it to the Secret Service.

Call me

~~SECRET~~

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CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NND 980117

27 September 1968

27 ~~10~~, DARA, Date 4-17-95

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

I agree with the attached note and believe that Mr. Nixon should be made aware of the potential dangers inherent in his planned visit to Mexico City.

This may smack of excessive caution, but I recall rather vividly the public criticism leveled at this Agency when Mr. Nixon had a close call in Caracas some years ago.

I am not clear on the channels to Mr. Nixon on a matter of this kind. I know that the Secretary of State and the Secret Service have the responsibility for the safety of American officials when outside the United States.

Dick
Richard Helms
Director

Attachment - 1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

25 September 1968

Note for the Director re Mr. Nixon's Planned Visit to Mexico

The Secret Service has requested an estimate on security conditions for Mr. Nixon's planned visit to Mexico City on 17 October. Because we are now even more concerned about security conditions than we were a few weeks ago, we are updating our note to you of 6 September on the proposed visit, since cancelled, of Vice President Humphrey.

1. We have judged prior to past visits to Mexico by President Johnson or Vice President Humphrey that there would be little or no danger involved, either of an assassination attempt or of violent demonstrations on any major scale. But in view of the recurring troubles between Mexican students and the Diaz Ordaz administration, we cannot make the same judgment with any confidence for Mr. Nixon's proposed visit. The Mexican government has been able to control the student riots only through the use of army troops to back up the police. There have been scores of casualties and a number of fatalities on both sides, as the students have used firearms and Molotov cocktails. We believe that the situation will remain tense at least for some months, and that, with or without the occasion of a prominent visitor from the US, student extremists will attempt to mount demonstrations during the Olympics in order to embarrass the Mexican government.

2. If Mr. Nixon does make a visit in October to view the Olympic games, we think that the Mexican security forces would have appreciably more difficulty in protecting him than has been the case in the past for prominent visitors. We think that anti-US extremists among the Mexican students would undertake

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E.O. 12836, 5-27-34

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By *[signature]* NARA, Date 4-17-95~~SECRET~~

demonstrations directed against him specifically, and that these would be likely to turn ugly, producing some party incidents, before the security forces could suppress them.

Handwritten:
ABBOT SMITH
Director
National Estimates