

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

October 9, 1968

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MEMO FOR WALT ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Mexican Riots

SANITIZED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 95-189

By CB - NARA Date 3-3-97

Walt:

CIA went back [REDACTED] to try to get answers to the questions you raised in staff meeting. Their response is attached.

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

I don't think there is enough new information in this to warrant sending it up to the President. However, State is trying to get some additional evaluation of the situation from the Embassy which we should have shortly, and CIA may also come through with more details.



SWLewis

Attachment

74a

3.4(b)(1)



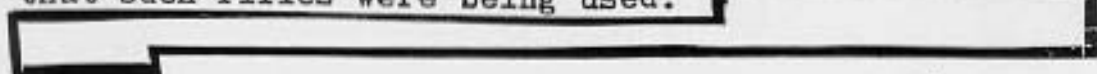
SUBJECT : Answers to Questions Raised by White House
Concerning Student Disturbances in Mexico

1. The following is currently available information on the questions raised on 7 October:

A. Question: Mexican [redacted] students were using new rifles with numbers filed off supplied by "Chinese sources". Is there any verification?

3.4(b)(2)(c)

Answer: There is no verification to date that such rifles were being used. [redacted]



B. Question: Did or did not individuals from outside Mexico infiltrate the country just prior to the riots and take part? If so, where were they from and who did they represent?

Answer: The only confirmed information on individuals from outside Mexico who possibly might have been involved in the riots involved two French students, one Chilean, one Puerto Rican, and one American. The latter three were arrested on 26 July and were deported. The French students were not apprehended. It is not known whether these individuals represented themselves or international organizations. Although the Mexican press continually plays the theme of foreign involvement, no conclusive evidence to this effect has been presented to date.

C. Question: What faculties of the university were involved in the rioting and to what extent?

Answer: All faculties of the National Autonomous University had been involved to some extent. The National Strike Committee consisted of over 200 members representing the National Autonomous University, the

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NEL 95-121

By sig, NARA Date 2-1-96



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[REDACTED]

National Polytechnic Institute, the National Agricultural College, Teachers Colleges, Vocational and Preparatory Schools. At the National University the most active faculties at the beginning of the disturbances were those of Economics, Law, Philosophy, and Political Science. More recently the Science faculties and the Polytechnic schools have become more involved. Not to be excluded from involvement in student disturbances were professors who formed coordination committees of teachers representing most of the aforementioned schools and colleges.

D. Question: What organizations outside the academic field proper took part or furnished support in money or arms and how much support -- in arms and money?

Answer: [REDACTED] no conclusive information concerning support of arms to the students. The one unconfirmed report mentioned in the addendum to the paper on the Mexican student crisis is the only indication of appreciable amounts of financial support. [REDACTED] the Mexican Communist Party, the Mexican Communist Youth, the National Democratic Student Central, and the National Union of Mexican Women have given "moral" support to the student movement and have participated in the collection of funds. It is not possible to determine the amount of money collected by the students who have resorted to periodic collection campaigns throughout the city. [REDACTED] the Mexican [REDACTED] studied the cost of student trouble from 26 July to 26 September and found it to be over "4 million pesos" (320,000 U.S. dollars) for advertisements, signs, food, support, and so forth.

3.4 (4/2)

3.4 (4/2)

E. Question: Verify if possible the acts of the Olympia Brigade as reported by the Bureau.

Answer: [REDACTED] a small group of students at the National Autonomous University of Mexico advised [REDACTED] that the Trotskyists had formed a "Brigade" which was broken down very secretly into small compartmented cells of three to five students. Some students call this group the "Brigade Olympia". [REDACTED] the Brigade plans to dynamite electric transmission centers and

3.4 (4/2)

[Redacted]

3.4(b)(1)

transformers at key places in Mexico City in order to interfere with Olympic events; dynamite certain bridges on the circumferential highways at times which would cause the greatest difficulties for Olympic events; seize some of the buses being used for transportation of Olympic athletes; and capture some famous athletes who are participating in the Olympics.

[Redacted]

3.4(b)(1)

2. Additional information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

[Redacted]

3.4(b)(1)