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SEPTEMBER 8, 1962

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RMR

FROM: MEXICO CITY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 792, SEPTEMBER 8, 5 PM

FILE

NI ACT

POLICY

S/S - LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

RELIABLE NON OFFICIAL MEXICAN SOURCE ON SEPTEMBER TOLD ME HE WAS AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ MATEOS TO INFORM ME THAT MEXICO HAD BEGUN CONSULTATIONS WITH BRAZIL ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BREAK RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THIS FITS WITH THE CRYPTIC STATEMENT MADE TO ME SEPTEMBER 7 BY BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR AT HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION THAO TELLO HAD SPOKEN WITH HIM ABOUT SERIOUSNESS OF ARMS BUILD-UP IN CUBA. MY SOURCE MADE IT PLAIN THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED.

IF DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH LINE TAKEN IN MY PERSONAL CONVERSATION AS REPORTED EMBTEL 740 SUGGEST SECRETARY RUSK TAKE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE SAME LINE WITH CARRILLO FLORES.

WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT MEXICO IS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO BREAKING WITH CASTRO REGIME NOT BECAUSE OF ANY STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST COMPUSSION WITHIN PRI PARTY CIRCLES HERE OR BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND OR ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST THREAT TO HEMISPHERE. NOR WOULD I DEDUCE FROM FORE-GOING THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE ON THEIR OPPOSITION, BASED ON WELL-KNOWN JURIDICAL GROUNDS, TO COLLECTIVE OAS ACTION.

WHAT BOTHERS MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS POSSIBILITY MEXICO MAY BE CAUGHT IN ISOLATED POSITION OF APPARENT FRIENDSHIP FOR CUBA IF THERE SHOULD BE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CUBA IN

FUTURE

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLKF 97-19
By <i>[Signature]</i> NARA. Date 4/16/98

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-2- 792, SEPTEMBER 8, 5 PM FROM MEXICO CITY

FUTURE. EMBARRASSMENT WOULD BE MORE ACUTE IF MEXICAN PUBLIC SHOULD BE TOLD OF EVIDENCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHICH BOTH UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONCERNING CUBAN INTERVENTION IN MEXICAN AND GUATEMALAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

1.5(e)
3.4(b)

DEPARTMENT APPROACH TO CARRILLO FLORES WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF CARRILLO FLORES GETS IMPRESSION WITHOUT OUR SAYING SO EXPLICITLY THAT EVENTUAL SHOWDOWN WITH CASTRO IS A POSSIBILITY REGARDLESS OF WHAT DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT ESTIMATES ACTUALLY ARE. THIS WOULD SEEM TO ME TO BE CONSISTENT WITH SECRETARY RUSK'S RECENT STATEMENT TO LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT UNITED STATES HOPES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION BUT MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER ITS RESPONSIBILITY DEFEND UNITED STATES AND WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARTIN'S QUINCY SPEECH.

IN SUM, OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO EXPLOIT MEXICAN CONCERN THAT WITH BRAZIL SHE MIGHT BECOME ISOLATED FROM INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND FEAR THAT ULTIMATELY UNITED STATES PUBLIC OPINION MAY TURN AGAINST MEXICO BECAUSE OF THIS ISSUE AT A TIME WHEN MEXICO MAY NEED US BADLY.

CFN

MANN

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Note: Mr Richardson (ARA) informed 9/8 FMH

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