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FROM: MEXICO CITY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1947, JANUARY 23, 2 P.M.

REFERENCE: EMBTELS 1844, 1853, 1862, AND 1887; A-913 AND A-937

ON JANUARY 21 CARDENAS BROKE SILENCE MAINTAINED SINCE HIS SPEECH AT FIRST CCI ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 6. ISSUED STATEMENT IN BOLD DEFENSE CCI CALLING IT AVENUE FOR CAMPESINOS NOT PREVIOUSLY AFFILIATED ANY AGRARIAN GROUP TO PURSUE JUST AIMS. CARDENAS SAID UNJUSTIFIED PUBLICITY DIRECTED BY ENEMIES MEXICAN REVOLUTION, WELL DEFINED FOREIGN INTERESTS, AND EVIL MEXICANS, AGAINST CREATION OF CCI PROVES ONCE AGAIN THAT AGRARIAN PROBLEM MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF MEXICO AND ONE DEMANDING MOST URGENT SOLUTION. CARDENAS DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST ATTACKS OF PORTES GIL LETTER (A-937) CALLING PORTES GIL'S CHARGES FALSE AND COWARDLY. HE DENIED THAT HE IS DIRECTOR OF MLN AS PORTES GIL HAD SAID, BUT ADMITTED MEMBERSHIP.

GIVING PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNINGS FOR HIS SUPPORT CCI, CARDENAS CALLED ON NEW GENERATIONS BROUGHT UP IN SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE MEXICAN REVOLUTION TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP REVOLUTIONARY ACTION. THESE GENERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED CONFORM TO PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATIVE SECTORS AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE WITH VIGOROUS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION, ACCORDING TO CARDENAS, TO FULFILLMENT REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES. CLEAR INFERENCE THAT CCI IS EXAMPLE OF SUCH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION. CARDENAS AND HIS COMMUNIST ASSOCIATES MAY FEEL HEARTENED AT ADMINISTRATION DECISION NOT TO MOVE DIRECTLY AGAINST CCI LEADERSHIP WITH POLICE POWERS. CARDENAS, APPARENTLY NOW SAFE FROM OPEN ATTACK BY LOPEZ MATEOS ADMINISTRATION, MAY BELIEVE HE CAN WITH IMPUNITY GIVE CCI, AND LEFT IN GENERAL, NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST BY PUBLIC STATEMENT.

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-2- 1947, JANUARY 23, 2 P.M. FROM MEXICO CITY

CARDENAS BOLD REACTION TO CRITICISM CCI UNDERLINES FAILURE LOPEZ MATEOS ADMINISTRATION GRAPPLE WITH LONG-TERM ASPECTS AGRARIAN PROBLEM AND ADMINISTRATION FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND FULLY OR INDIFFERENCE TO COMMUNIST THREAT IN AGRARIAN FIELD. ADMINISTRATION AIMS AT UNDERCUTTING CCI WITH SHORT-TERM POLITICAL MEASURES AND HASTY LAND DISTRIBUTION DESIGNED TO QUIET SOCIAL DISCONTENT AGRARIAN SECTOR. TACTIC MAY SUCCEED IN BLOCKING CCI, BUT AGRARIAN PROBLEM WILL REMAIN BECAUSE SHORT-TERM MEASURES ARE BASED PURELY ON POLITICS AND COMPLETELY DISREGARD LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ALSO LOPEZ MATEOS TACTIC OF APPLYING PALLIATIVES AGRARIAN SECTOR TO UNDERCUT CCI, RATHER THAN MOUNTING STRONG FRONTAL ATTACK ON ORGANIZATION, DOES NOTHING TO IMMOBILIZE LEADING COMMUNIST AGITATORS WHO CAN WAIT IN WINGS, IF CCI DOES DISAPPEAR, FOR NEW OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT UNRESOLVED LONG-TERM PROBLEMS POSED BY RISING POPULATION, MOUNTING UNEMPLOYMENT AND GROWING HUNGER AND DISCONTENT IN AGRARIAN SECTOR.

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