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TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6049

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SUBJECT: SPECIAL OBSERVATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN POLICE
ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 003528

LIMDIS

1. DCM AND EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE MET AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH COLONEL MANUEL DIAZ ESCOBAR FIGUEROA AND CAPTAIN ROGELIO FLORES BERRONES AND EXPLAINED WASHINGTON VIEW AS SET FORTH IN APPROPRIATE PARTS OF REFTEL. DURING DISCUSSION ESCOBAR MADE FOLLOWING POINTS AND COMMENTS:

2. GOM HAS REACHED DECISION AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO REFORM AND RESTRUCTURE MEXICO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ITS OPERATIONS. (COMMENT: THIS CONFIRMS INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES. SEE PARA 6 BELOW.) TO THIS END GOM WANTS TO ORGANIZE AND TRAIN A CORE STAFF FOR TWO PRINCIPAL PURPOSES: A PLANNING GROUP TO PLAN THE REORGANIZATION AND AN OPERATIONS GROUP TO HELP PUT IT INTO EFFECT. THIS CORE STAFF IS BEING CAREFULLY SELECTED FROM ALREADY RECRUITED, TRUSTED AND PROMISING YOUNG MEXICANS INTERESTED IN THIS KIND OF WORK. TO SECURE BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT TEAMS BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, ENGLAND, GERMANY AND POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO OTHER COUNTRIES. THESE TEAMS WILL BE ABROAD FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS EACH AND THEY ARE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT HOW POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE CARRIED OUT IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

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3. FOR EXAMPLE, TEAMS ARE TO STUDY PERSONNEL POLICIES IN LARGE FOREIGN CITIES INCLUDING HOW POLICE PERSONNEL ARE SELECTED AND TRAINED. THEY ARE TO LEARN HOW POLICE ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANIZED, INTO WHAT DEPARTMENTS AND WHAT SECTIONS, AND WHY. THEY ARE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS THEY CAN ABOUT ALL TYPES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND HOW THEY ARE CONDUCTED, WHAT KIND OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ARE USED, AND WHAT ARE LATEST TECHNIQUES. THEY ARE TO CONSIDER VARIOUS TYPES OF ARMS, DEFENSIVE TACTICS, EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS USED. THEY ARE TO STUDY AND ASSESS VARIOUS SYSTEMS OF FILES AND RECORDS. THEY ARE TO LEARN LATEST TECHNIQUES OF RIOT AND CROWD CONTROL.

4. WHEN TEAMS RETURN TO MEXICO CITY THEY WILL BE REFORMED AGAIN INTO LARGE CORE STAFF AND USED AS TALENT POOL FOR REORGANIZATION OF MEXICO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AS INDICATED ABOVE.

5. AS SET FORTH MEXICO CITY 40. TEAMS SELECTED TO GO TO U.S. CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MEN. ALTHOUGH ONE OR TWO ARE ONLY 19 YEARS OLD, AVERAGE AGE OF GROUP IS 24-25. TEAM WILL INCLUDE FIVE YOUNG ARMY OFFICERS. (COMMENT: SELECTED ARMY MEN HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ENTRUSTED TO PLAN AND OVERSEE REORGANIZATION OF POLICE FORCE IN MEXICO CITY.) OF 15 GOING TO U.S. ABOUT HALF WILL RETURN TO GO INTO PLANNING GROUP AND REMAINDER INTO OPERATIONS GROUP. ACCORDING TO ESCOBAR ALL REPEAT ALL ARE MEMBERS OF MEXICO CITY POLICE ESTABLISHMENT, ALBEIT SOME ON LOAN FROM ARMY, AND ALL AS MEMBERS OF NON-UNIFORMED ELEMENTS. ESCOBAR SAID MEXICO CITY MAYOR WOULD BE GLAD TO FURNISH USG APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION ESTABLISHING TEAM PARTICIPANTS AS BONAFIDE MEMBERS OF MEXICO CITY POLICE ESTABLISHMENT IF DESIRED. ESCOBAR SAID THAT ALL TEAM MEMBERS TO GO TO U.S. HAVE HAD PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN POLICE WORK WERE WELL EDUCATED AND WERE READY FOR KIND OF TRAINING AND OBSERVATION THAT GOM WAS PROPOSING.

6. FOR PRESENT AT LEAST ESCOBAR SAID GOM WANTS TO CONTINUE TO KEEP FAR-REACHING NATURE OF ITS DECISION AND TRUE PURPOSE OF TEAMS TO BE TRAINED ABROAD AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE. (EVEN SO, SOME INDICATIONS OF MAJOR OVERHAUL IN PROSPECT HAVE ALREADY FOUND WAY INTO MEXICO CITY PRESS. SEVERAL DAYS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, NEW MEXICO CITY CHIEF OF POLICE, ROGELIO FLORES CURIEL, ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD MERGED INTO A SINGLE DEPARTMENT IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT THE 10,000 PREVENTIVE POLICE AND THE 2,500 TRAFFIC POLICE. ACCORDING TO PRESS, FLORES CURIEL, A COLONEL ON LOAN FROM THE ARMY, WAS

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APPOINTED TO HIS JOB LAST MONTH WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO INCREASING THE "PROFESSIONALISM AND EFFICIENCY" OF MEXICO CITY POLICE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD PLANS TO IMPROVE POLICE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND SALARIES AND THAT HE WILL HAVE A "UNIFIED PLANNING, LOGISTICS AND OPERATIONS STAFF" AIMED AT STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT. STANDARDS TO ENTER POLICE FORCE WILL BE RAISED, TRAINING PROGRAMS LENGTHENED, AND SALARIES INCREASED SO AS TO MAKE MEXICO CITY POLICEMEN "TRUE PROFESSIONALS" AND TO END PETTY BRIBES KNOWN HERE AS MORDIDAS. POLICEMEN NOW EARN AROUND 50 PESOS, OR US DOLS 4.00 PER DAY.

7. ALTHOUGH ESCOBAR WAS ASSURED OF USG DESIRE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE, WE ARE NOT SURE HE WAS ENTIRELY CONVINCED AND IN ANY CASE HE INDICATED SOME RESTIVENESS AND A STRONG DESIRE TO CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEAMS VISIT TO U.S. AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. UPSHOT OF THIS WAS DISCUSSION OF HIM OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE GOING DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF PROPOSED TEAM VISIT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. HE INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR HIM TO VISIT WASHINGTON PERSONALLY AND SEE WHAT TRAINING FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE AND DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH THOSE WHO MANAGE THESE FACILITIES THE KIND OF TRAINING THAT MIGHT BE PROVIDED TO HIS GROUP. ALSO, HE COULD SETTLE BETTER IN WASHINGTON WHETHER OR NOT HIS TEAM SHOULD GO ON TO NEW YORK CITY, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES FOR OBSERVATION TOURS, WHICH AT PRESENT HE CONTINUES TO THINK WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIREABLE. WE TOLD ESCOBAR THAT WE FELT CONFIDENT THAT APPROPRIATE U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS FOREGOING WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON, AND HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH HIS SUPERIORS HERE AND TELEPHONE EMBASSY TOMORROW CONCERNING HIS PLANS. IF POSSIBLE HE WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, OR A DAY OR TWO LATER, AND TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON ONLY ABOUT TWO DAYS.

8. EMBASSY HAS PASSED INFORMATION ABOUT ESCOBAR'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY TELEPHONE TO ARA/MEX AND WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS SOON AS KNOWN.

9. COMMENT: I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO RECEIVE COLONEL DIAZ ESCOBAR AND FACILITATE HIS OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. GP-3
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