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ACTION: Amembassy MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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REF: A-Mexico 3330 -- B-Mexico 3331

1. Confirming Petrow/Kubisch telcon, we share your concern over possibility USG may be linked to June 10 riots through our police training program and believe our principal objective ~~should be to prevent any press comment appear.~~ would be obtained should no press comment appear.

~~Comment on this if at all possible~~ For this reason, we believe Embassy ~~press statement should be issued~~ should refrain from issuing ~~unless articles~~ unless articles ~~to serious detriment of U.S. Image~~ to serious <sup>detriment of U.S. Image</sup> ~~alleging linkage~~ have appeared in the press. Moreover, since even most care-fully drafted press statement ~~will~~ is likely to sound defensive, we believe burden of response to press allegations should be on GOM and that Embassy should issue statement only if it is apparent silence would be even more damaging.

2. Consequently, we should like Embassy to adopt

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/MEX: CGP <i>[Signature]</i> w:mrg	DRAFTING DATE 6/17/71	TEL. EXT. 22415	APPROVED BY: ARA - Mr. Hurwitch <i>[Signature]</i>
CLEARANCES: ARA/PAF - Mr. <i>[Signature]</i> (sub)			S/S-0: Mr. Fry <i>[Signature]</i>

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following course:

A. At meeting with Gallastegui, Chargé, after expressing concern about possible press linkage of our police training to Halcones, should state we intend to reply to any press queries ~~inquiries~~ with oral statement of facts along lines press statement transmitted ref B, as amended, (see below). Then recalling high level of GOM request for police training program, he should inquire how GOM proposes to deal with press queries should they materialize.

B. If Embassy receives press queries, it should answer them orally in factual, low key manner along lines of proposed press statement with following additions:

1. Stress fact that training facilities were

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offered under program 16 years old in which 65 countries have participated.

2. All costs of training are being borne by GOM.

3. First group is not scheduled to return to Mexico until July 9.

4. Mexican police officials are being trained in other countries as well (this statement should be made with as much precision and assurance as possible -- perhaps Gallastegui can confirm Embassy's information that Mexican police officials are being trained in Japan and UK).

5. If, in spite of our and GOM's efforts, against us expect to press campaign/begins, we would ~~hope~~ the GOM ~~would~~ issue public statement setting forth the facts. If

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campaign continues and assumes such virulence that Embassy judges silence more damaging than a public statement, it should report the relevant facts and its recommendations urgently to the Department and Department will make immediate decision on issuance of press statement. If decision is to issue, statement transmitted ref B subject to additions mentioned paragraph 2B above is suitable.

3. We have no objection to Embassy making oral statements in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ref B if pressed.

4. Department will do everything possible to prevent leaks or public release on police training program. We anticipate no need for issuing press statement here. We plan to reply orally to press queries along lines paragraph 2B above.

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5. We note that final group of trainees scheduled to depart for US August 9. We would like your recommendations as to whether we should try to dissuade GOM from sending this group. GP-1.

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