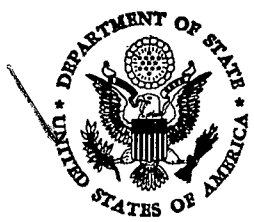


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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

47

SECRET 147

modified 9/23/68

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07239 270152Z

87
ACTION: ARA 16

INFO: CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,
RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, CU 04, AID 28, EUR 15, NIC 01, OPR 02,
SY 03, RSR 01, /140 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7721

S E C R E T MEXICO 7239

REF: DEPTTEL 244518

1. COUNTRY TEAM HAS ASSESSED STUDENT SITUATION AND CONCLUDES FOLLOWING:

2. GOVT HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO FORCEFUL SHOWDOWN WITH STUDENTS EVER SINCE ARMY TOOK OVER UNAM; SHOWDOWN REINFORCED BY ATTACK ON RECTOR, GOVT MOVE ON ALL STUDENT GATHERINGS OF ANY SIZE AND BY SEIZURE OF OTHER SCHOOLS. GOVT AT MOMENT NOT SEEKING COMPROMISE SOLUTION WITH STUDENTS BUT RATHER SEEKING TO PUT END TO ALL ORGANIZED STUDENT ACTIONS BEFORE OLYMPICS. SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED EMB OFFICER THAT CNH ITSELF DOES NOT WANT SETTLEMENT. AIM OF GOVT BELIEVED TO BE TO ROUND UP EXTREMIST ELEMENTS AND DETAIN THEM UNTIL AFTER OLYMPICS. THUS GOVT BELIEVES DETENTION EXTREMISTS OFFERS BETTER PROSPECT FOR PEACEFUL OLYMPICS THAN WOULD COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT LEAVING EXTREMISTS FREE. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT WELL IN ADVANCE OF PRESENT DISORDERS, GOM HAD INFORMATION STUDENT EXTREMISTS WOULD ATTEMPT DISRUPTION GAMES.

3. QUESTION OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP NOT EASY TO ANSWER. THERE IS NO MODERATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL AMONG STUDENTS AT PRESENT. CNH HAS BEEN LOOSE BODY COMPOSED OF 210 MEMBERS--THREE REPS FROM EACH OF SEVENTY SCHOOLS. TOP GOM OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL ORDER STATES THAT EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP WITHIN CNH EXERCISED BY KIND OF SECRETARIAT COMPOSED OF 10 KNOWN COMMUNISTS, 9 OF WHOM HAVE VISITED CUBA. FIVE OF THIS TEN ARE NOW IN JAIL AND GOM EXPECTS ROUND UP OTHER FIVE SHORTLY.

2

SECRET



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07239 270152Z

STRIKE LEADERSHIP HOWEVER HAS BEEN FLUID AND EVEN LEFTIST HAVE APPEARED DIVIDED AS TO DEGREE OF MODERATION AND EXTREMISM. NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION UNDER DIRECTION CNH; EMB LIKewise BELIEVES CNH GENERALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT VIOLENCE ALTHOUGH DISPERSAL OF CNH LEADERSHIP HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR BELIEVERS IN VIOLENCE TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY AND SOME VIOLENCE DOUBTLESS DUE TO NON-STUDENT LAWLESS ELEMENTS. POSSIBILITY STRONG THAT RECENT ACTS OF AND VIOLENCE TO SOME DEGREE SPONTANEOUS REACTION OF THESE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS. IN GENERAL, CNH SEEMS ABLE TO INCITE OR MOVE STUDENT GROUPS TO ACT; IT SEEMS NOT EQUALLY ABLE TO PREVENT THEM FROM ACTING.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ANTI-GOVT MOOD OF BULK OF STUDENTS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BUT EMB DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS MEANS INCREASED WILLINGNESS OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS TO TAKE GREAT PERSONAL RISKS IN ACTIONS AGAINST GOVT. DEMONSTRATED GOVT WILLINGNESS TO USE ALL MEANS INCLUDING GUNFIRE TO CONTROL STUDENT VIOLENCE HAS GREATLY REDUCED SIZE OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND TENDS TO SEPARATE MODERATE ELEMENTS FROM EXTREMISTS. IN ANY OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION, IT MOST IMPORTANT NOTE NO SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS HAS YET COME FROM ANY MASS SECTOR OF POPULATION.

5. SECRETARIES OF GOVERNMENT AND OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAVE SEPARATELY ASSURED EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT GOVT WILL PUT END TO STUDENT AGITATION PRIOR TO OLYMPIC GAMES AND THAT NO DISRUPTION OF GAMES WILL OCCUR. WHILE THIS POSITION BY GOM OFFICIALS IS TO BE EXPECTED, BOTH OFFICIALS GAVE IMPRESSION OF FULL CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY GOM TO DO THIS. EMB DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION OF GAMES WILL OCCUR OR THAT VISITORS WILL BE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED OR INCONVENIENCED BY STUDENT AGITATION. HOWEVER SOME ISOLATED ACTS OF TERRORISM OR OF HARASSMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, TELEPHONED BOMB THREATS) CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RULED OUT. WHILE THERE MAY WELL BE TROOPS OR ARMED PATROLS IN EVIDENCE DURING GAMES, EMB BELIEVES THAT GOM WILL BE WELL AWARE OF DESIRABILITY OF MAKING THESE ELEMENTS AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE.

6. OLYMPIC INSTALLATIONS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN COMPLETELY INSULATED FROM RECENT INCIDENTS. EMB HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT STUDENTS SEEKING OUT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HERE FOR OLYMPICS TO STATE THEIR CASE BUT THEY CAN HARDLY EXPECT SYMPATHETIC EAR IF THEY

SECRET



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 07239 270152Z

UNDERMINE OLYMPICS. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT STUDENTS ATTEMPTING TO RALLY OLYMPIC ATHLETES OR THAT CURRENT DISORDERS HAVE AFFECTED PARTICIPATION IN GAMES. MOST STUDENTS INCLUDING SOME CNH MEMBERS HAVE APPEARED CONSCIOUS OF ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION OF ANY MOVES AGAINST OLYMPICS, THOUGH CLEARLY WHAT HAS WORRIED GOVT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE ACTION BY INTRANSIGENT BUT CONTROLLING MINORITY OF ACTIVISTS.

7. FOREIGN SECRETARY CARRILLO FLORES HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SENT CIRCULAR TO ALL OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICES INSTRUCTING RECIPIENTS TO SPREAD WORD THAT THERE WILL BE NO DISRUPTION OF OLYMPIC GAMES. FOREIGN SECRETARY ALSO MENTIONED THAT ONLY QUERY GOM HAD RECEIVED FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY REGARDING SAFETY OF OLYMPICS HAD COME FROM SOVIETS.
FREEMAN

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