

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

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[Redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED

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DIST 20 JUL 1968

WUBIRIS: REALW
 DOI: 30 JULY 1968
 SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

291-280-4

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

ACQ:

[Redacted]

SOURCE:

1. THROUGHOUT THE MORNING OF 30 JULY 1968 GROUPS OF STUDENTS, RANGING IN NUMBERS UP TO SIX HUNDRED, HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF MEXICO CITY. SOME GROUPS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN MARCHING FORMATION, CARRYING BANNERS. ALL POLICE POSTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY THE PRESENCE OF STUDENT GROUPS. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ADDITIONALLY NOT TO CONFRONT STUDENT GROUPS AND NOT TO ENTER ANY SCHOOLS. RIOT POLICE ARE STATIONED AROUND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND THEY HAVE REPORTED NO INCIDENTS. ARMY TROOPS HAVE SEALED OFF A FOUR BLOCK SQUARE AREA NORTH OF THE ZOCALO.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
 DATE: JAN 2009
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AT 1100 HOURS SEVERAL STUDENT GROUPS WERE REPORTED TO BE CREATING DISTURBANCES, MOST OF WHICH INVOLVED THE STEALING OF BUSES. ONE GROUP OF FIFTY TO SIXTY STUDENTS WAS SEEN CARRYING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. TWO STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. [REDACTED]

2. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) AND THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (IPN). [REDACTED]

3. A STRIKE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED BY STUDENT GROUPS AT UNAM ON 29 JULY, AND IS IN PERMANENT SESSION AT THE LAW SCHOOL. THIS COMMITTEE REPRESENTS ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS, FROM THE FAR RIGHT TO TROTSKYISTS. THE SCHOOLS OF ECONOMY, PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES ON STRIKE ALTHOUGH SOME PHILOSOPHY STUDENT LEADERS HAVE DISAGREED WITH THE DECISION, CLAIMING THAT MOST STUDENTS WILL STAY AT HOME AND THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ROUND THEM UP FOR DEMONSTRATIONS. THE FORMATION OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE WRESTED CONTROL OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT UNAM FROM THE COMMUNIST YOUTH OF MEXICO (JCM), WHICH HAD DOMINATED THE SITUATION UP TO THAT TIME. ALTHOUGH ALL FACTIONS INVOLVED ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY

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RESTLESS, THOSE WHO ARE ADVOCATING VIOLENT ACTION ARE STILL IN THE MINORITY.

[Redacted]

4. A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD AT UNAM AT 1800 HOURS ON 29 JULY TO PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ACTION AND TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR A PLANNED MASS DEMONSTRATION. FROM THE SALTO DEL AGUA TO THE ZOCALO AT 1700 HOURS ON 31 JULY. APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN HUNDRED STUDENTS CONGREGATED. TROTSKYIST SPEAKERS ADDED TWO NEW DEMANDS TO THE LIST OF THOSE ALREADY PUBLISHED - THAT RESIGNATIONS BE TENDERED BY MEXICO CITY MAYOR ALFONSO CORONA DEL ROSAL AND MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA. THESE DEMANDS WERE LOUDLY APPLAUDED. SIMILARLY APPLAUDED WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR 31 JULY. IT WAS STATED THAT ALL UNAM

STUDENT LEADERS WOULD LEAD THE MARCH TO THE ZOCALO.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5. [Redacted] CUBAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING [Redacted] ON 29 JULY: THAT THE FACULTY OF LAW AT UNAM HAD "SUMMONED" THE MEXICAN

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GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ALL ARRESTED STUDENTS BY 1700 HOURS ON
31 JULY, OTHERWISE A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION WILL BE ORGANIZED
TO DEMAND THEIR RELEASE.

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