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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
5 October 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Addendum to "Mexican Student Crisis,"  
4 October 1968

SUMMARY

There is no hard evidence that either the Cuban or Soviet embassies in Mexico City masterminded the current disturbances despite repeated allegations to that effect by the Mexican Government. We have unconfirmed reports that they have given moral and possibly some financial assistance, however, and there is evidence that many known Mexican Communists have openly participated in the riots.

1. Despite the participation of many Communist groups in the disorders, [REDACTED]

As in other countries, the extremists have capitalized on the disorders and members of the Mexican Communist Party (PCM), the Communist Youth (JCM), the Communist-oriented National Democratic Students' Central (CNED), and the Trotskyist and Castroite groups have all participated in varying ways.

2. The PCM has gone on record as endorsing the student demands, but party leaders have privately stated that none of their principal functionaries should become directly involved in the violence. Known Communist students are associated with the National Strike Council and other organizations that have arisen during the disturbances, as are Trotskyists and members of the other Communist groups. The JCM has also instructed representatives to state organizations to participate in any local student activities in support of the Mexico City protests.

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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS  
PANEL, E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP NO. 2004-028

E.O. 12958, as amended  
Section 3.3(b)(1)

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3. There is some evidence pointing to Cuban moral backing and of possible financial aid for the Mexican students. [redacted] reported in mid-August that two Cuban intelligence agents had come to the Mexican capital to report on the disturbances, but had since left. Other evidence shows that Castro's intelligence agents assigned to Mexico maintain contact with student elements there. Evidence that these agents have assisted the students is scant, however. One unconfirmed report states that Cuban funds have been advanced in two instances: \$8,000 from the Cuban Embassy to the PCM on 30 September to be given to the students who participated in the demonstrations over two months earlier on 26 July that touched off the crisis, and that a Cuban movie director had passed \$7,000 to a member of the PCM central committee. The Cuban consul in Veracruz is reliably reported to be counseling student agitators there.

4. In general, despite evidence that Cuban officials have become involved in some internal Mexican affairs, they have generally refrained from hostile acts against the Mexican government, the only Latin American government with which Havana maintains diplomatic relations. The Cubans appear reluctant to jeopardize this valuable base for mounting clandestine efforts in Guatemala and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

5. The Soviets have similarly appeared anxious to protect their embassy in Mexico City as a base for operating against targets in the US and elsewhere in the hemisphere, and have been careful to minimize their involvement in domestic Mexican affairs. Thus, although they have provided some financial assistance to Mexican Communists in the past, there is no evidence of direct involvement in the student riots. [redacted] report that members of the Soviet Embassy staff maintain contact with student elements as they have for some years. The most recent report of a payment states that shortly prior to the student disturbances the embassy gave \$6,000 to the PCM to finance student activity in the state of Michoacan west of the capital.

6. The strongest circumstantial evidence that the students have received financial aid during the disturbances is the appearance of extensive ads in Mexico City dailies,

which would cost many thousands of dollars. Funds could easily come from domestic opponents of the Diaz Ordaz government, however, in view of the disgruntlement of some former officials in both party and government who have fallen from favor. The students similarly would have little difficulty in obtaining their weapons stocks from ample domestic sources.

7. Whatever the extent of Cuban or Soviet encouragement of the students, it is clear that the demonstrations have grown primarily out of domestic circumstances. There have been almost no anti-US overtones. The students and some politicians have felt increasingly at odds with the rigidity and corruption of the Mexican government, and official ineptness in dealing with the protests on the eve of the Olympic Games has helped keep them going.

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WWR  
Lewis

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BROOKLYN SMITH  
The White House

From: [illegible] the [illegible]

UP OF paragraph 8 of yesterday's  
Mexican memo.

*Drax*

Draxel Godfrey, Jr.  
D/OCT

5 October 1958  
(DATA)

REPLACES FORM 10-101  
WHICH MAY BE USED: