

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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1. MEXICO
2. INCIDENT BETWEEN MEXICAN ARMY AND FARMERS
3. NA
4. 11 MAY 76
5. [REDACTED] 12 MAY 76 (b)(2)
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. 12 MAY 76
10. NA
11. [REDACTED] (b)(2)
12. [REDACTED] (b)(2)
13. [REDACTED] (b)(3)
14. [REDACTED] (b)(3)
15. A. (~~C/NOFORN~~) [REDACTED] ELEMENTS OF THE MEXICAN (b)(2)

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Defense Intelligence Agency
By [REDACTED] Date 1/9/94
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ARMY WERE INVOLVED IN A SENSITIVE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN STATE OF CHIAPAS. EARLY YESTERDAY (11 MAY) A GROUP OF DISGRUNTLED COMMUNAL LAND OWNERS (EJIDATARIOS) MET IN THE TOWN OF VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, IN THE HIGHLANDS OF CHIAPAS SOUTH OF SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS. THE GROUP WAS PRESSING ITS DEMANDS ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR MORE COMMUNAL LAND. IN THE EARLY MORNING TWO INDIVIDUALS OF THE GROUP APPARENTLY THREATENED PEACE TO THE POINT WHERE THE ARMY SECURITY DETACHMENT NORMALLY STATIONED IN THE TOWN (ABOUT 20 MEN) TOOK THEM INTO CUSTODY. WHEN THE ARMY UNIT BEGAN TO MOVE THE PRISONERS FROM THE CENTER SQUARE, THE CROWD OF EJIDATARIOS DISPERSED YELLING, A LAS ARMAS (ROUGHLY, DEFEND YOURSELVES). ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AND IN THE CONFUSION THE SOLDIERS BEGAN RECEIVING FIRE FROM SNIPERS IN BUILDINGS AND TREES.

B. (C/NOPORN) THE ARMY PARTIDA (SECURITY DETACHMENT) WITHDREW AND IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT IN FROM THE 46TH INF BN -- ABOUT 100 OFFICERS AND MEN. THE REINFORCEMENTS, IN FACT, WERE COMPOSED OF THREE ELEMENTS OF THE BATTALION WHICH WERE ON SECURITY DUTY IN THREE SEPARATE TOWNS NEAR V. CARRANZA. A COMPANY OF THE 29TH INF BN ALREADY ATTACHED TO LOCAL POLICE AT SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS [REDACTED] WAS ALSO SENT IN TO REINFORCE. THE ARMY THEN OCCUPIED VARIOUS KEY POINTS IN AND AROUND V. CARRANZA.

(b)(2)

(b)(6)

C. (C/NOPORN) [REDACTED] BY NOON (11 MAY) THE COMMANDER OF THE 46TH BN, [REDACTED] ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND TOOK COMMAND WITH THE ORDERS TO DISLodge THE INVADERS WHO WERE BY THEN OCCUPYING SEVERAL BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE TOWN HALL. THE COMMANDER WAS DIRECTED TO REASON WITH THE FARMERS -- THROUGH LOUD SPEAKERS -- BY TELLING THEM THAT IN REALITY THEY WERE "BEING DUPED BY (FOREIGN INTERESTS)" THAT THE ARMY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH AND WAS COMPLETELY NEUTRAL IN THE ISSUE OF LAND DISTRIBUTION, AND FINALLY THAT HIGHER AUTHORITY, AS IT DOES WITH ALL MEXICAN CITIZENS AND UNDER THE LAW, "WOULD PURSUE A JUST COURSE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM ACCORDING TO THE PRECEPTS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE". [REDACTED] THE LEADER OF THE DEMONSTRATING GROUP APPEARED TO RESPOND TO THE COMMANDER'S APPEAL AND AGREED TO MEET WITH STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS. THE FARMERS DISPERSED WITH THE POLICE OCCUPYING THE TOWN HALL BEHIND THEM. DURING THE INCIDENT, THERE WERE TWO CIVILIANS KILLED AND THREE SOLDIERS WOUNDED, BUT NOT SERIOUSLY.

(b)(2)

(b)(6)

D. (S/NOPORN) IN AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, [REDACTED] IN THE TOWN OF V. CARRANZA REPORTED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO THE ARMY COMMANDER. [REDACTED] THAT THE LEADER OF THE INVADERS, [REDACTED]

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(b)(6) [REDACTED] RECEIVED TWO CALLS FROM MEXICO CITY, ONE FROM A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL AND ONE FROM AN ENGINEER FROM WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRARIAN REFORM. [REDACTED] THE CRUX OF THE CONVERSATIONS WAS INSTRUCTION TO THE LOCAL LEADER TO STAY PUT AND HE WOULD RECEIVE REINFORCEMENTS FROM TUXTLAS GUTIERREZ (THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE).

(b)(2) [REDACTED] THESE KINDS OF CONFRONTATIONS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN NUMBER AND INTENSITY AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION GROWS NEARER. SINCE THE ARMY IS THE FIRST LINE OF SECURITY IN MUCH OF THE COUNTRY AND IN MANY ISOLATED AREAS, THE ONLY SECURITY, IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BECOME MORE HEAVILY INVOLVED. DESPITE THE QUICK REACTION AND CAUTIOUS MEASURES OF LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITY THIS INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES THE POTENTIAL FOR THE ARMY'S BEING CAUGHT IN THE FIRE AND CROSS-FIRE BETWEEN LAND INVADERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS. POTENTIALLY, THEREFORE, THE ARMY COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT THAT COULD BRING NATIONAL EXPOSURE AND CRITICISM OF ITS MEMBERS.

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DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

DATE

REPORT NO.

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Mexico City Bombings November 29 1975