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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 PM-10 INM-07 INRE-00  
SP-02 C-01 P-02 /039 W

-----355466 092206Z /66

P 092131Z MAR 89  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1007  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ POUCH  
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA  
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO POUCH  
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS POUCH  
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN POUCH  
AMCONSUL MERIDA POUCH  
AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO POUCH  
AMCONSUL TIJUANA POUCH

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.5(D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL  
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED  
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(D)  
DATE/CASE ID: 13 OCT 2004 200301533

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 06242

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, MX  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

REF: MEXICO 5081

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: EMBOFF MET WITH MEXICO'S LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, ROSARIO IBARRA DE PIEDRA, WHO COMMENTED ON THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GOM PARDON OF PRISONERS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING CRIMES OF A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL NATURE. SHE EXPRESSED RELIEF AT THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF MEXICO CITY POLICE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF,  
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[Redacted]

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[REDACTED] THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE GOM IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO ADDRESS PAST ABUSES. END SUMMARY. B1

3. OVER BREAKFAST ON MARCH 8, POLOFF MET WITH MEXICO'S LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, ROSARIO IBARRA DE PIEDRA, WHO COMMENTED ON RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS ON CURRENT POLITICAL EVENTS.

4. ADDRESSING THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GOM PARDON OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" (SEE REPTTEL), ROSARIO IBARRA SAID THAT OF THE 402 PRISONERS MENTIONED FOR RELEASE BY THE GOVERNMENT, ONLY THREE HAD BEEN RELEASED TO DATE.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] SHE WOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR THE RELEASE OR CLARIFICATION OF THE 551 ARRESTED OR DISAPPEARED FROM HER OWN LIST. B1

5. ROSARIO IBARRA ADDED THAT THE NEWLY CREATED HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT UNDER LUIS ORTIZ MONASTERIOS WAS ALSO PART OF THE SAME POLITICAL STRATEGY TO APPEAR MORE OPEN AND THEREBY IMPROVE THE GOM'S IMAGE. SHE SAID SHE RESPECTED AND LIKED ORTIZ MONASTERIOS, BUT SHE WOULD PUT HIS FEET TO THE FIRE UNTIL ALL THE DISAPPEARED ARE ACCOUNTED FOR IN MEXICO. DIFFERENTIATING HER POSITION FROM THAT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN ARGENTINA, SHE OBSERVED THAT UNLIKE THEM

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SHE DID NOT DEMAND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BE ARRESTED AND PUNISHED. INSTEAD, HER INTEREST WAS SIMPLY TO SEE THOSE ARRESTED OR "DISAPPEARED" BE RELEASED OR ACCOUNTED FOR.

6. COMMENTING ON THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF MEXICO CITY POLICE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF NAZAR HARO, SHE STATED THAT IT HAD COME ABOUT IN PART FROM INTERNAL DOMESTIC PRESSURES AND ALSO FROM THE EXISTING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST HIM PENDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. REFERRING TO THE FORMER MEXICAN SOLDIER WHO DECLARED IN CANADA THAT HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES, ROSARIO IBARRA COMMENTED THAT ONE OF HER OWN PEOPLE HAD INTERVIEWED THE FORMER SOLDIER EXTEN-

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SIVELY. MANY PARTS OF HIS STORY MESHED WITH DETAILS SHE HAD OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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[REDACTED]

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ALREADY THERE HAVE BEEN 42 POLITICALLY MOTIVATED KILLINGS, MOSTLY OF CAMPESINO LEADERS OR ORGANIZERS, AND ONE JOURNALIST.

9. TURNING TO OTHER POLITICAL EVENTS, ROSARIO IBARRA STATED SHE WAS WORKING HARD TO HELP THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY (PRT) GET THE NECESSARY 65,000 SIGNATURES TO REGAIN ITS ELECTORAL REGISTRY. SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WOULD NOT BECOME A MILITANT HERSELF GIVEN HER OWN FULL AGENDA IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

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[REDACTED]

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11. COMMENT: THE ENERGETIC AND TALKATIVE ROSARIO IBARRA WAS IN GREAT SPIRITS THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. SHE SEES HER ROLE AS HAVING GAINED GREATER LEGITIMACY AND OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS THE OFFICIAL ATTENTION SHE IS GETTING, ALONG WITH SOME OF THE RESULTS. REGARDLESS OF SOME OF HER COMMENTS AND THE SUPPOSED PLOY DRIVING THE SALINAS ADMINISTRATION'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS

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FIELD, THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE GOM IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO ADDRESS PAST ABUSES. DECISIONS FROM THE CENTER, HOWEVER, WILL NOT PREEMPT FUTURE ABUSES MOTIVATED BY LOCAL CONDITIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF MEXICO FROM TAKING PLACE. (DRAFTED:POL:VMROCHA) GAMBLE.

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