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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

● PRIORITY

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY PANAMA

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2000



DATE OF INFO. 9-12 JANUARY 1964

DISTR. 16 JANUARY 1964

SUBJECT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE BORDER CLASHES OF 9 JANUARY, THE ATTITUDE OF COMMUNIST LEADERS TOWARD RELAXING OF TENSIONS, AND FUTURE PLANS

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PLACE & DATE ACQ.



REF

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SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:



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1. THE DEMOCRATIC SLATE OF THE RENOVACION ESTUDIANTIL INSTITUTORA (REI) WON THE RECENT STUDENT ELECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE, DEFEATING THE CANDIDATES OF THE VAI (MEANING UNKNOWN), WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY THE PARTIDO DEL PUEBLO (PDP, PEOPLE'S PARTY - COMMUNIST). INSTALLATION OF THE NEW REI OFFICERS WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE INSTITUTE AT 1630 HOURS ON 9 JAN 64; HOWEVER, A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THAT TIME, MEMBERS OF THE VAI TRIED TO DISRUPT THE PROCEEDINGS WITH THE UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A MARCH TO THE BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL WAS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO RAISE THE PANAMANIAN FLAG IN THE CANAL ZONE.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR OO EXO
CINCMEAFSA

IMMEDIATE TO: DIRNSA (PROD WO)
STATE (RCI)(FOR HUGHES)
JCS
CNO (OP 922 Y 1)

AFSSO
DIA/CIIC
NIC
DFI/ACSI

WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM
CINCMEAFSA

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BURNING CARS, AND THE SITUATION READILY GOT OUT OF CONTROL AS OTHERS QUICKLY JOINED THE MOB.

2. BY 7:45 P.M. FOUR AUTOMOBILES ALONG 4TH OF JULY AVENUE AT THE CANAL ZONE BORDER HAD BEEN SET AFIRE. AT 8:30 P.M. CARLOS NUNEZ, PDP STUDENT LEADER, WAS EXHORTING THE CROWD FROM AN IMPROVISED PLATFORM TO INCREASE THEIR ACTS OF VIOLENCE. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS THE TIME TO FINISH OFF THE YANKEE IMPERIALISTS, AND THAT THE CROWD SHOULD MOVE TOWARD THE LIMITS DESTROYING EVERYTHING ALONG THE WAY THAT EVEN LOOKED AS THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE LINKS WITH THE U.S. HE WAS FOLLOWED AS A SPEAKER BY FLOYD BRITTON, PDP STUDENT LEADER, WHO SPOKE IN A SIMILAR MANNER, URGING EVERY PERSON IN THE CROWD TO KILL A YANKEE. WITH NUNEZ AND BRITTON IN THE LEAD THE CROWD BEGAN ITS DESTRUCTIVE MARCH, WITH NUNEZ AND BRITTON CONTINUALLY URGING THEM TO GREATER EFFORTS.

3. WHEN THE CROWD WAS DISPERSED AT THE LIMITS BY TEAR GAS, MANY FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE INSTITUTE WHERE AN IMPROMPTU ASSEMBLY IMMEDIATELY TOOK PLACE. CARRASQUILLA (FNU) SAID THAT THE PANAMANIAN MUST ORGANIZE IMMEDIATELY AND BEGIN AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE YANKEES.

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VIRGINIA RAMIREZ, PDP WOMEN'S LEADER, INCITED THE PARTICIPANTS AND LED THEM IN SHOUTING ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS. THE LEADERS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN ORGANIZING BRIGADES OF FROM FIVE TO TEN PERSONS, AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO GO OUT INTO THE STREETS AND BREAK

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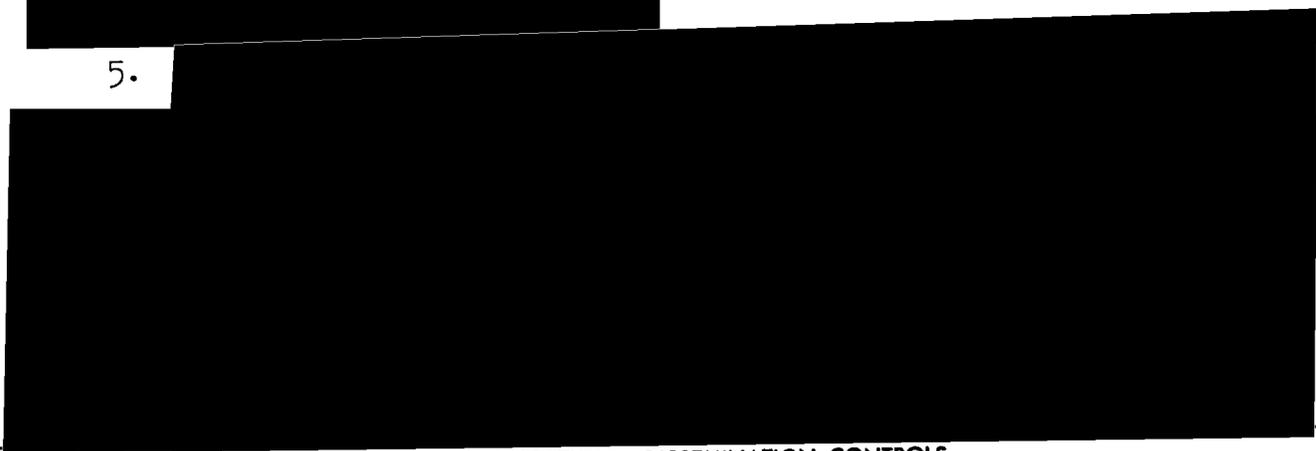
OR SET FIRE TO ANYTHING THAT EVEN SMELLED OF YANKEEISM. IT WAS AFTER THIS ORGANIZATION OF BRIGADES THAT THE MAJOR DAMAGE TOOK PLACE, SUCH AS THE BURNING OF THE PAN AMERICAN BUILDING, THE CANAL ZONE PHARMACY, BRANIFF OFFICES, ETC.

4. ON 10 JAN 64 THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE WAS AGAIN THE CENTER FOR ORGANIZING VIOLENCE.



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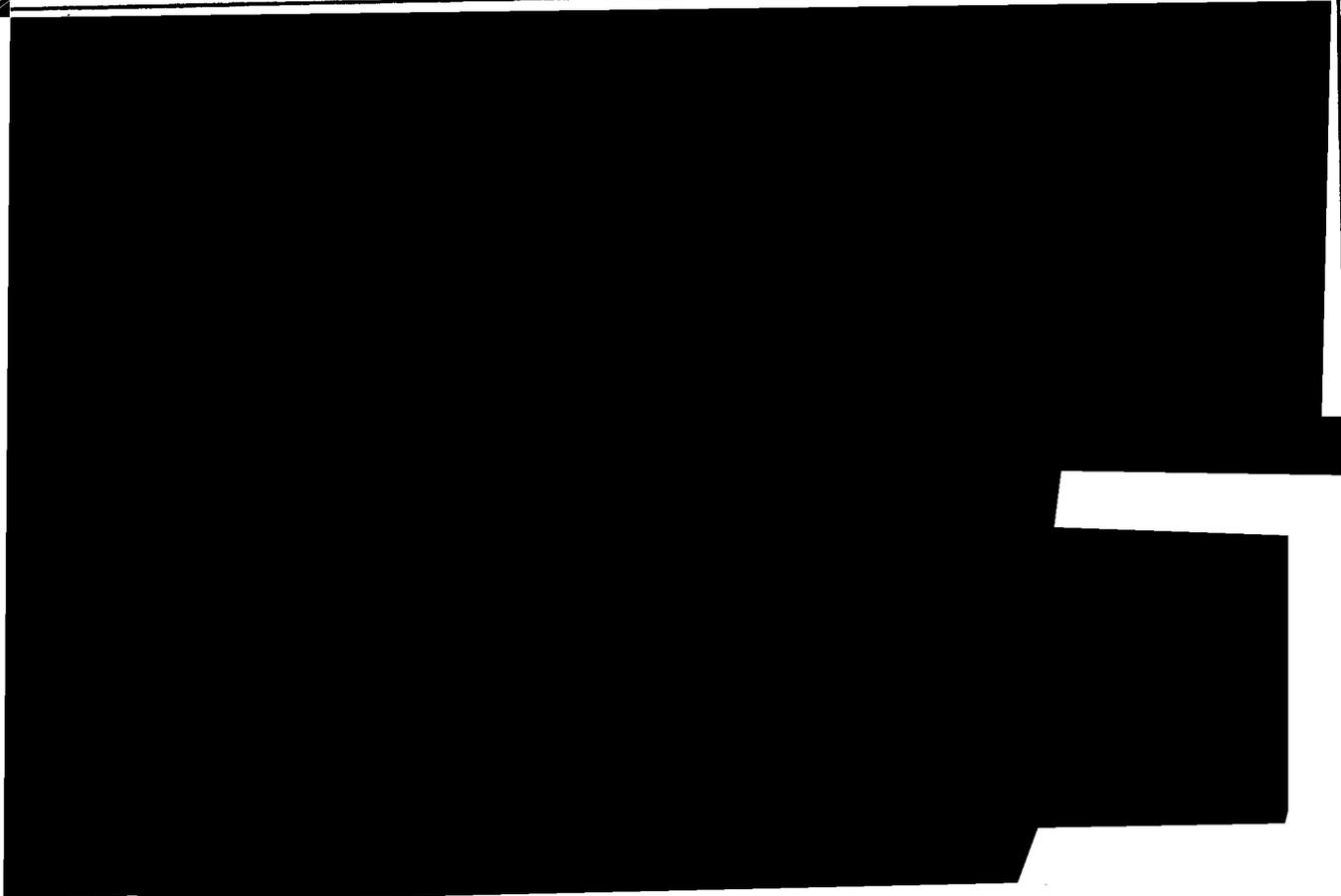
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9. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, CINCSO, CINCLANT,
PANCANAL, CINCMEAFSA.

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