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TO THE WHITE HOUSE
DEPT OF STATE RCI
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~~SECRET NOFORN~~ CITE [REDACTED] (ADVANCE)
THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM (ATTN: SECRET SERVICE/WHITE
HOUSE DETAIL; SECRET SERVICE/PID; TREASURY/SAE).
DEPARTMENT OF STATE RCI (INR/RAR).
DEPARTMENT OF STATE (SY/PRS); U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
DAC: 6 JULY 1968
SUBJECT: SALVADORAN SITREP AS OF 2400 LOCAL
TIME 6 JULY 1968
ACQ: EL SALVADOR, SAN SALVADOR (JULY 1968)
FIELD NO. HSS-2127
SOURCE: THIS IS A SALVADORAN SITUATION REPORT [REDACTED]

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

1. A CROWD VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT 1,200 TO 2,000 INCLUDING MANY CURIOUS BYSTANDERS GATHERED IN THE PARQUE LIBERTAD FOLLOWING THE DEMONSTRATION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE GATHERING WAS ORDERLY. STUDENTS MAKING SPEECHES RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE FROM THE HARDCORE CENTER OF THE CROWD, BUT BYSTANDERS ON THE EDGES APPEARED INDIFFERENT OR AMUSED. DEMONSTRATORS THEN WENT TO THE USIA'S CENTRAL SALVADOR WHERE THEY BURNED ANOTHER EFFIGY, THREW STONES, AND BROKE SEVERAL CAR WINDOWS. (SOURCE: COMPETENT AMERICAN OBSERVERS)

2. AFTER THE MAIN DEMONSTRATION IN THE DOWNTOWN PLAZA BROKE UP AT ABOUT 2000 HOURS, SMALL GROUPS OF LEADERLESS MILITANTS BEGAN WANDERING AROUND TOWN DRINKING AND LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. ONE OF THESE BROKE SOME WINDOWS IN THE NATIONAL PALACE AND WAS WOUNDED BY SHOTS FROM A POLICEMAN. AT THIS POINT SEVERAL DEPUTIES IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LEFT THE BUILDING AND ARGUED WITH THE POLICE OVER THEIR TACTICS. POLICE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED AND A SEVERE ALTERCATION WITH THE DEPUTIES ENSUED. (SOURCE: A HONDURAN LEFTIST WITH ACCESS TO PCES MILITANTS AND LEADERS AND WHO WITNESSED THE REPORTED EVENTS.) (FIELD COMMENT: THE DEPUTIES MAY BE EXPECTED TO RELEASE A FLOOD OF PROTEST OVER THE INCIDENT WHICH MAY COMPLICATE THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION.)

3. GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED STRONG REINFORCEMENTS AROUND THE NATIONAL PALACE, INCLUDING RIOT CONTROL TROOPS WITH TEAR GAS BACKED UP BY ARMY TROOPS. NONE OF THESE WERE NEEDED, HOWEVER. DEFINITE ORDERS WERE SENT OUT TO ARREST ALL PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTORS AND DEMONSTRATORS STILL ON THE STREETS. BY 2230 HOURS SECURITY FORCES ASSESSED THE SITUATION AS ALL CLEAR. (FROM A RELIABLE, SENSITIVE SOURCE.)

4. LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS ARE HOPING TO INFILTRATE A UNIVERSITY JOURNALIST INTO THE 6 JULY ODECA MEETING IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO POSE EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS. A CHECK OF THE LIST OF PRESS ACCREDITATIONS SHOWED THAT DANILO VELADO, A KNOWN COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER, AND GUILLERMO ALDANA, A COMMUNIST WRITER FOR THE LEFTIST UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION "OPINION ESTUDIANTIL," HAVE OBTAINED ACCREDITATION. THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES INTEND TO TAKE AWAY THEIR PRESS CARDS. (SOURCE: AN OFFICIAL SALVADORAN SERVICE.)

5. SINCE STUDENT LEADERS HAVE LEARNED THAT THE MOTORCADE ROUTE WILL BE WELL-GUARDED, THEY HAVE ABANDONED PLANS TO PAINT SLOGANS AND PUT UP BANNERS THERE. THEY ALSO DECIDED NOT TO SEND DEMONSTRATORS TO THE AIRPORT ON 6 JULY, BUT TO CONCENTRATE THEIR FORCES AT 0830 HOURS AT THE CIRCLE ON PASEO INDEPENDENCIA THE BUS TERMINAL. THEY ARE DISTRIBUTING A FLYER URGING SPECTATORS ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE TO THROW EGGS AND STONES. (SOURCE: A UES STUDENT WITH FRIENDS AMONG LEFTIST MILITANTS, AND AN OFFICIAL SALVADORAN SERVICE.) (FIELD COMMENT: COPIES OF THIS LEAFLET WERE FOUND THE EVENING OF 5 JULY BY AMERICAN OBSERVERS.) AS OF 5 JULY, LEFTIST STUDENT LEADERS WERE NOT PLANNING ANY PROTEST ACTIVITIES FOR SUNDAY 7 JULY.

6. (FIELD COMMENT: THE CONSENSUS AMONG OBSERVERS OF TODAY'S EVENTS IS THAT, WHILE THE ANTI U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE NOISY AND NOTICEABLE, THEY WERE CARRIED OUT BY A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO APPEARED TO BE MOTIVATED MORE BY PRANKISH SPIRITS THAN BY REAL ANIMOSITY. A SMALL NUMBER OF THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, BUT THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE SHOWN BOTH THE DETERMINATION AND THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL ALL FORESEEABLE SITUATIONS. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE HAS NO INTEREST IN HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS, IS CONSCIOUS OF THE UNPRECEDENTED INTERNATIONAL FAME BROUGHT TO EL SALVADOR BY THE PRESIDENTIAL REUNION, AND SHOULD ACCORD PRESIDENT JOHNSON AN EXTERMEY CORDIAL RECEPTION).

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, DEFENSE, USIS, FBI, SECRET SERVICE, CINCSO, CINCLANT.

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