

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN 79830

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DIST 28 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI: 27 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY STREP

ACQ:

SOURCE:

1. FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS, COMMENCING AT 1740 HOURS, A COLUMN OF STUDENTS, ESTIMATED TO NUMBER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND, MARCHED PAST THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY. THE LINE OF MARCHERS, USUALLY TWENTY-FIVE ABBREAST, WAS NOT CONTINUOUS; STUDENTS WERE GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE MANY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING, WITH SPACES OF UP TO FIFTY YARDS SEPARATING THE GROUPS. A FEW PEASANTS WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COLUMNS, AND SEVERAL BANNERS REPRESENTING GROUPS OF WORKERS, PRINCIPALLY ELECTRICIANS, WERE OBSERVED.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2002

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2. ALL UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION APPEAR TO BE VERY WELL ORGANIZED, AND THE COUNTLESS PLACARDS AND BANNERS ARE, IN THE MAIN, WELL-~~P~~REPARED. NO ONE HAS BEEN SEEN CARRYING WEAPONS OF ANY KIND. PLACARDS CARRY A VARIETY OF THEMES, INCLUDING NOT ONLY THE DEMANDS OF THE STUDENTS, BUT CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT, PROTESTS AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM, PROTESTS AGAINST THE USSR INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PICTURES OF "CHE" GUEVARRA, LEON TROTSKY, AND SLOGANS OF "YANKEE GO HOME", "CUPA SI, YANKEE NO", "RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS", "RELEASE DEMITRIO VALLEJO", ETC.

3. MANY OF THE MARCHING GROUPS PAUSED IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WHISTLED LOUDLY, SHOOK FISTS AND SHOUTED "YANKEE ASSASSINS". ONE VERY YOUNG STUDENT, USING RED PAINT, PRINTED THE WORD "ASSASSINS" ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE NEWLY PAVED SIDEWALK ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY. HE WAS NOT MOLESTED BY THE MANY POLICEMEN WHO OBSERVED HIM.

4. THE ONLY BANNERS OBSERVED REPRESENTING GROUPS FROM OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY WERE THOSE FROM DURANGO, PUEBLE, GUERFERO AND MORELOS.

5. AT 1940 HOURS, THE MEXICO CITY ZOCALO, THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE MARCH, WAS FILLED ALMOST TO CAPACITY WITH AN ESTIMATED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, BUT INCLUDING SOME WORKERS AND

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PEASANTS.

6. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF DISORDER.

7. [Redacted] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT

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