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# Intelligence Information Cable

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Classified by Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 5B (1), (2). Impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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DIST 4 JULY 1973

COUNTRY : MEXICO

SUBJECT : APPRAISAL OF SITUATION; STUDY OF COMMUNIST  
AND EXTREMIST GROUPS IN MEXICO PRIOR TO VISIT  
BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS

SUMMARY : THE SMALL MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM)

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

[REDACTED] REPRESENTS ORTHODOX COMMUNISM IN MEXICO. [REDACTED] THE PCM DOES NOT DIRECTLY CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT AND ESPOUSES THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY ACTION, THE PARTY DOES, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS, SUCH AS STUDENTS AND LABOR GROUPS, IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GAIN CONCESSIONS FROM OR EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. MEXICO'S MOST ACTIVE TERRORIST GROUP IS CENTERED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GUERRERO AND LED BY LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS, A FORMER PCM MEMBER, BECAUSE OF SOME LOCAL SUPPORT. CABANAS HAS AVOIDED CAPTURE AND HAS STRUNG TOGETHER A LONG LIST OF SUCCESSFUL BANK ROBBERIES AND KIDNAPINGS, PLUS TWO AMBUSHES OF SMALL ARMY CONVOYS IN 1972. MEXICO'S VOLATILE STUDENTS ARE LARGELY DISAFFECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, LED BY EXTREMISTS, AND ON OCCASION WILLING TO CLASH WITH THE AUTHORITIES. ALTHOUGH MOST OF MEXICO'S LABOR UNIONS ARE UNDER SOME DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL, SOME DISSIDENT GROUPS, SUCH AS DEMETRIO VALLEJO'S FOLLOWERS, ARE PROVOKING SMALL-SCALE INTERNECINE AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE, END SUMMARY.

1. THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) HAS REPRESENTED ORTHODOX COMMUNISM IN MEXICO FOR 50 SOME YEARS. EXCEPT FOR

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THE PCM'S ESPOUSAL, SINCE 1968, OF THE RIGHT OF COMMUNIST PARTIES TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION (CPSU), THE PARTY GENERALLY FOLLOWS THE OVERT MOSCOW LINE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

THE PCM IS LED BY A FIRST SECRETARY, A 10 MAN PRESIDUM, AND A CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ABOUT 27 MEMBERS.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

3. ALTHOUGH THE PCM DOES NOT COME ANYWHERE NEAR MEETING  
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A LEGITIMATE NATIONAL  
POLITICAL PARTY, IT IS ALLOWED TO OPENLY OPERATE IN MEXICO.

[REDACTED]

4. THE PCM AND ITS YOUTH WING, THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST  
YOUTH (JCM) [REDACTED] HOWEVER, SUPPORT CAUSES EMBARRASSING

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TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE PARTY SUPPLIED LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO STRIKING NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) EMPLOYEES WHO CLOSED THE UNIVERSITY FROM OCTOBER 1972 TO JANUARY 1973. DEMONSTRATIONS IN LATE JANUARY 1973 PROTESTING U.S. POLICY IN VIETNAM.

A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS DID ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, BUT WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED BY MEXICAN RIOT CONTROL POLICE. THE PCM OVERLY ESPOUSES THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY ACTION AND CITES THE ACTIVITIES OF LUCIO C A B A N A S BARRIENTOS AS JUSTIFIED BUT TACTICALLY WRONG. IT CAN BE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT PCM LEADERS WILL ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT STUDENT AND LABOR UNREST IN MEXICO, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY CAN FIND A NON-COMMUNIST GROUP TO TAKE THE LEAD AND BEAR THE BRUNT OF ANY GOVERNMENT REPRESSIVE ACTION.

5. THE PARTY'S PROPAGANDA CONSTITUTES ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF MEXICO'S INFLUENTIAL LEFTIST AND GENERALLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-U.S. PRESS AND PERIODICALS. THE PARTY'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE "OPOSICION" CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A POPULAR PUBLICATION.

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6. THE PARTY IS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE EITHER THE DETERMINATION, EQUIPMENT, OR TRAINING TO CARRY OUT EXTENSIVE TERRORIST OR GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES AND CERTAINLY REPRESENTS NO THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE PCM'S STRENGTH LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO SEIZE ISSUES WHICH HAVE GAINED SOME DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT AND TO ABET THEIR DEVELOPMENT INTO A CRISIS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

7. THERE ARE NO KNOWN PLANS BY THE PCM TO DISRUPT THE PROPOSED MAY 1973 VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS.

8. MEXICO'S LEADING AND MOST NOTORIOUS TERRORIST GROUP IS THAT LED BY LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS. CABANAS, A FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER AND REGIONAL PCM LEADER, OPERATES FROM THE ATOYAC MOUNTAINS NORTHWEST OF ACAPULCO, GUERRERO. HE CALLS HIS OVERALL GROUP THE POOR PEOPLES PARTY AND USES THE TERM "THE PEASANTS EXECUTIONARY BRIGADE" WHEN HIS GROUP TAKES VARIOUS FORMS OF TERRORIST ACTION, SUCH AS KIDNAPING, BANK ROBBING, OR AMBUSHING SMALL ARMY UNITS.

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9.

HIS GREATEST STRENGTH

LIES IN THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT HE RECEIVES FROM THE POOR  
PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO.

10. CUBANAS' PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS, BASED ON HANDOUTS BY  
HIS GROUP ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE FOLLOWING:

ISIDRO CASTRO FUENTES

ENTRIQUE VELAZQUEZ F.

AGUSTIN ALVAREZ RIOS

JOSE LUIS ORBE RAMIREZ.

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11. [REDACTED] CABANAS [REDACTED] HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS GROUP'S ADROITNESS AT KIDNAPING FOR EITHER MONEY OR THE RELEASE OF HIS SUPPORTERS FROM PRISON. THE LATEST VICTIM WAS A WEALTHY GUERRERO FARMER WHO WAS EXECUTED WHEN THE FAMILY FAILED TO PAY THE SPECIFIED RANSOM IN APRIL 1973. [REDACTED] CABANAS' GROUP HAS SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN ON SMALL ARMY UNITS OPERATING IN GUERRERO. THE RESULTS HAVE DEEPLY EMBARRASSED THE MEXICAN ARMY, WHICH REPRESENTS GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OUTSIDE OF MEXICO'S MAJOR CITIES.

[REDACTED]

12. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CABANAS ARE LARGELY CARRIED OUT FOR HIM BY SYMPATHETIC EXTREME LEFTIST ELEMENTS WHO PORTRAY HIM AS A MODERN-DAY ROBIN HOOD. THE EXTREMIST, ANTI-GOVERNMENT MAGAZINE "POR QUE?" IS USUALLY REPLETE WITH ARTICLES FAVORABLE TOWARD CABANAS AND HAS CARRIED PUBLIC NOTICES FROM THE GUERRILLA LEADER, THE HARSHNESS OF DAILY LIFE FOR MOST OF

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GUERRERO'S POPULATION AND THE OCCASIONAL BRUTALITY OF SECURITY FORCES IN THE AREA BOTH REDOUND TO CABANAS' STRENGTH.

13. THERE ARE NO KNOWN PLANS BY CABANAS' GROUP TO DISRUPT THE PROPOSED MAY 1973 VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS TO MEXICO.

14. MEXICO ABOUNDS WITH OTHER SMALL EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS, WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY CONSIDER HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS, CAUSING EMBARRASSMENT, OR CONDUCTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF STATE DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO. MOST OF THE ORGANIZED GROUPS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BY EFFECTIVE POLICE ACTION AGAINST THEM DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

15. SUCH GROUPS AS THE ARMED COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCA) WHICH HIJACKED A MEXICAN AIRPLANE TO CUBA IN NOVEMBER 1972,

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (MAR-ACTION), AND THE FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FLN) CENTERED IN MONTERREY, ALL PROFESS BRINGING SOCIALISM TO MEXICO BY VIOLENT MEANS AND SEE MEXICO'S POLITICAL LEADERS, THE SECURITY FORCES, AND THE U.S. AS THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES.

16. SHOULD TROUBLE OCCUR, THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE WOULD BE

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EXTREMIST-CONTROLLED UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS. MEXICO'S LAST TWO MAJOR UPHEAVALS, OCTOBER 1968 AND 10 JUNE 1971, WERE A RESULT OF STUDENT CLASHES WITH THE GOVERNMENT. SINCE 1971 STUDENTS IN THE VARIOUS STATE UNIVERSITIES HAVE CHALLENGED, OFTEN SUCCESSFULLY, UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR A GREATER DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER THESE INSTITUTIONS. THE STATES OF NUEVO LEON, SINALOA, CHIHUAHUA, AND PUEBLA HAVE EXPERIENCED ALMOST CONSTANT AGITATION AT THEIR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. THE LAST SUCH INCIDENT WAS A CLASH ON 1 MAY BETWEEN POLICE AND EXTREME LEFTIST-CONTROLLED STUDENT GROUPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA WHICH LEFT FOUR STUDENTS DEAD. OF ALL THE RECENT STUDENT UNREST, THAT IN PUEBLA PROBABLY IS THE MOST SERIOUS FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE DEGREE OF COMMUNIST CONTROL OVER THE FACULTY AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, THE CONTINUOUS STRING OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND THE UNIVERSITY THERE, AND BECAUSE PUEBLA'S CLOSENESS TO THE CAPITAL MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO IGNORE. THE CHANCE OF THE TROUBLE SPILLING OVER INTO THE CAPITAL BY SYMPATHETIC ACTION BY EXTREMIST GROUPS AT UNAM, IPN, AND MEXICO CITY'S 5,000 POPULAR PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS IS A REAL POSSIBILITY.

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OTHER ISSUES WHICH COULD SPARK STUDENT VIOLENCE ARE REAL OR IMAGINED VIOLATION OF SCHOOL AUTONOMY, THE CLOSING OF THE POPULAR PREPARATORY SCHOOLS, A CHANGE OR NO CHANGE IN SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, AND THE "POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE" WHICH IS SLOWLY GAINING MOMENTUM IN LEFTIST CIRCLES AS THE GOVERNMENT SUCCESSFULLY BREAKS UP TERRORIST GROUPS.

17. LABOR AGITATION IS A LESS LIKELY SOURCE OF TROUBLE IN THE CAPITAL, ALTHOUGH IN THE STATES INTERNECINE VIOLENCE AMONG THE RAILROAD WORKERS IS COMMON. ALSO IT TOOK ARMY TANKS AND TROOPS TO BREAK A STRIKE BY SUGARCANE WORKERS IN VERACRUZ IN JANUARY 1973.

18. IN SUMMARY, NO ANTI-U.S. ISSUES APPEAR TO HAVE THE DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR EXTREMIST ELEMENTS TO PROVOKE INTO A MAJOR INCIDENT DURING THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSED MAY VISIT TO MEXICO. IF TROUBLE DEVELOPS, IT WOULD SEEM MORE LIKELY TO BE A RESULT OF INTERNAL MEXICAN PROBLEMS AND TO ORIGINATE FROM RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS RATHER THAN DIRECTLY FROM ONE OF MEXICO'S KNOWN TERRORIST OR COMMUNIST GROUPS. TROUBLE FROM EXTREME RIGHTIST GROUPS APPEARS UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THEY ARE EITHER NOT IN THAT DEGREE OF CONFLICT WITH THE GOVERN-

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MENT OR THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISES SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER  
THEIR ACTIVITIES,

19. FIELD DISSEM; EMBASSY, FBI, DEFATT AT MEXICO CITY.  
REPORT CLASS: ~~SECRET~~

EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (1), (2), IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE  
OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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