

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

● PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

98

LBJ LIBRARY

Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 97-353

Document # 98

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

COUNTRY PANAMA

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

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

REF

IN 99812

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

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.

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794; the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~SECRET~~

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

CINCPACFLT  
CINCPACAFSA

IMMEDIATE TO: DIRNSA (PROD WO) AFSSO WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM  
STATE (RCI)(FOR HUGHES) DIA/CIIC CINCPACAFSA  
JCS NIC  
CNO (OP 922 Y 1) DFI/ACSI

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

IN 99812

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

PAGE 2

[REDACTED]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] VAI MEMBERS AND OTHER INSTITUTE STUDENTS IMMEDIATELY LEFT THE PREMISES AND BEGAN THEIR MARCH: HOWEVER, THE REI STUDENTS REMAINED AT THE INSTITUTE, THEY QUICKLY CARRIED OUT THEIR INSTALLATION CEREMONIES, THEN HURRIEDLY LEFT THE SCHOOL TO JOIN THE OTHER MARCHERS IN AN EFFORT TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP AS THE INCUMBENT DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE. THE MARCH WAS PEACEFUL THROUGHOUT AND FOUR TEACHERS ACCOMPANIED THE MARCHERS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE. AT THE BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL THE RUDE ATTITUDE OF THE CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS AND THE SUBSEQUENT HERDING OF THE STUDENTS BACK TO PANAMA AROUSED THE INDIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE GROUP. MANY RETURNED TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE WHERE THE NIGHT SCHOOL KNOWN AS THE MODERN INSTITUTE WAS IN PROGRESS. WHEN NEWS OF THE INCIDENT AT BALBOA AND THE RETURN TO PANAMA WAS REVEALED, ALMOST ALL OF THE STUDENTS IMMEDIATELY LEFT THE SCHOOL TO STAGE A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION. THEY SOUGHT THE SUPPORT OF THE GROUP STRIKING AGAINST THE CANAL ZONE BUS LINE, WHO AGREED TO JOIN THEM. THE COMBINED GROUPS IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE CANAL ZONE BORDER, BEGAN

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**  
(When Filled In)

IN 99812

PAGE 3

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

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. [REDACTED]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] 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

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

5. [REDACTED]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(When Filled In)

IN 99812

PAGE 5

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

6.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[Redacted]

7.)

[Redacted]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[Redacted]

8.

[Redacted]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**  
(When Filled In)

IN 99812

PAGE 6

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

END OF MESSAGE

**SECRET**