FROM: Mexico City
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
THIS COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE

In response to DEPTEL 3985, our estimate is as follows:

First, appraisal of communist plans:

Groups normally hostile to US are: (1) Communist Party of Mexico (PCM), a small but well organized group which receives funds from Soviet Bloc Embassies. (2) The PCM controlled National Liberation Movement (MLN) which is sponsored by Lazaro Cardenas. The MLN has somewhat broader political base but is loosely organized. (3) Popular Socialist Party (PPS) a communist organization with a following somewhat larger than PCM and headed by Lombardo Toledano. (4) A small and politically unimportant group of Spanish communists and anarchists which in the past has cooperated with PCM. We should assume they will work with PCM during visit. (5) A small and politically unimportant group of Trotskyites who in past have not cooperated with PCM. (6) Miscellaneous groups of students and splinter labor organizations which are used as pawns by the PCM and Soviet Bloc Embassies. These groups while comparatively small in numbers are capable of leading agitation and of attracting others.

Outside the scope of this TEL are crackpots who operate individually or in very small groups and who from standpoint
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of personal security of President must always be taken into
account. Please note also we are proceeding on assumption,
based largely on information available to us about nature
of instructions to PCM, that Soviet interests would not be
served by bodily harm to President Kennedy. We must defer
to Department's judgment on this point and suggest that this
caveat be given urgent consideration.

Of these groups PCM and its collaborators represent biggest
problem. Its plans have been reported in detail by Legal
Attache and Embassy in recent days in telegrams captioned
"Presidential Visit". New element is instructions to PCM
from Soviet Union to undertake vigorous anti-Kennedy pro-
paganda campaign and to create disturbances with police
using students and other pawns while avoiding direct
involvement of PCM members. Objective of PCM campaign is
to create impression Kennedy visit is unwelcome by the people
of Mexico and secondarily to demonstrate repressive character
of Mexican Government. On other hand, according our information,
PCM plans no "direct action" against President Kennedy or
members of his party.

Propaganda campaign is already well under way. MLN has
recently held indoor "peace conference" meeting which passed
resolutions protesting Kennedy visit, US nuclear testing and
space station at Guaymas. On evening June 22, some 600 of
74,000 students at National University met on university
campus where they protested from Mexican security forces by
university "autonomy" to hear harangue by student speakers
who protested Presidential visit and accused US of responsi-
bility for the death of Jaramillo family, dumping salt in
Mexicali Valley, anti-Communist measures recently taken by
university Dean and for all the ills of Mexico. Effigy of
figure some considered Uncle Sam and others President Kennedy
was burned in public. This demonstration spearheaded by some
half dozen communist student groups which turned out between
150-200 hard core agitators. This meeting adopted resolutions
for agitation along route of motorcade from the airport on June
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29 and called for another mass meeting at university on same date. Storage of leaflets, placards and other material for demonstrations in various parts of city has already commenced. Demonstrations by small groups on streets, buildings and on rooftops along route of motorcade and at Basilica also planned. If these PCM plans are executed and US press reports disturbances as representative of majority of Mexican people rather than very small organized minority, Communists could succeed in detracting from public relations impact of visit, particularly if through use of Molotov cocktails and other devices PCM succeeds in its probable desire of forcing clashes between demonstrators and Mexican security forces. Mexican press, which is largely controlled by government can be expected to play down any demonstrations. Please note this telegram directed to situation in federal district. Possibility exists of propaganda campaigns and small scale disturbances in various states outside of federal district.

MANN

AAL: JVC/3

Note: Advance copies to SS-0 and INR 6-24-62 GWO-M.
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

SECRET

Control: 18370
Rec'd: June 23, 1962
8:16 p.m.

FROM: Mexico City
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 3796, June 23, 3 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

THIS IS COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE

As reported recently by (in detail, PPS, which refused to participate in MLN meeting, is instructing its members to refrain from participation in plans.

Second, local measures being taken to counter plans:

Embassy believes Mexican Government has bona fide intention to prevent all incidents which will detract from visit. Embassy believes Government has capability of preventing any large-scale or serious demonstrations but it may not be able to prevent, for example, a group of a dozen students suddenly converging and whipping out placards or throwing Molotov cocktails at a police vehicle or at Embassy Office building with object creating a temporary and localized disturbance.

On other hand, there is every indication GOM, supported by large majority of Mexican people, has every intention of giving President Kennedy unprecedented welcome. Mexicans estimate more than million people in line motorcade route with friendly labor organizations, school groups, police, Frente Civico groups, government workers and police and military placed in strategic positions nearest street along entire motorcade route. Plans are that general public, including unfriendly minority elements, will be standing back from curbs. Government authorities state they will take

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take usual precautions with buildings and rooftops.

Re Basilica, which we consider another difficult part of visit
due to large crowds anticipated, large area in terrace near
side entrance of Cathedral will be kept clear and people con-
 fined to streets and remaining part of terrace behind wooden
barricades. Plainclothes police and military will be on 24-hour
guard duty in advance of mass and will be scattered throughout

crowd.

Usual precautions being taken on routes President and Mrs.
Kennedy will travel. In addition, Mexican police have already
begun rounding up elements considered dangerous amid unconfirmed
reports which have created uncertainty in PCM ranks that Manuel
Terrazas-Guerrero, who is in charge of execution of PCM plan,
was arrested then released after having been bribed by government.
On other hand, large number of PCM members anticipating arrest have
gone underground in district and in various states. Civilian
police and military elements in Federal District are being rein-
forced by outlying areas.

While Mexican police and military authorities are having their
customary difficulties coordinating with each other and agreeing
on clear assignments of responsibility, Embassy believes these
problems will be largely cleared up during next few days. We
consider government plans and organization to be, on the whole,
satisfactory at this time.

In respect of measures being taken by Embassy, we are passing
on promptly to Mexican authorities all intelligence information
received by us and are working closely with Campion advance
party in working out security problems concerning visit. GOM
is well informed concerning PCM plans and is actively working
on counter measures. Gathering and reporting information on
security President's visit has been first priority of Embassy
for several weeks. Embassy coordination with GOM authorities
at peak.

In sum, while we do not wish to underestimate importance of
Soviet directive to PCM and money and organization available
to that party, we believe GOM has will and ability to cope
with PCM plan and that prospects of favorable total impression

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from public relations point of view are relatively good.

Third, measures that might be taken in Washington:

We would appreciate immediate information concerning names of
communists capable of cooperating with PCM who are known to
Washington and who have recently arrived in Mexico or who may
arrive before or during visit.

Embassy is recommending in separate telegram provision of US
helicopters available for stand by during visit. Please note
arrival of helicopters should not be related to security of
President.

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DMJ/TAB

Note: Advance copies to SS-0 and INR 6-24-62 CWO-M.