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ACTION SAL 01

INFO ARA 01 04 10 13 07 01 26 02 09 02 01 01 01

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R 060024Z JUL 68
FM AM EMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894

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REF STATE 186094 07 13 2

I. BROAD DISCUSSIONS WITHIN EMBASSY SUPPLEMENTING ONE HELD IN
REPLYING TO STATE 170648 LED TO FOLLOWING GENERAL CONCLUSIONS RE
CURRENT SITUATION OF YOUTH IN MEXICO.

2. FIRST SALIENT POINT IS THAT VAST MAJORITY MEXICAN POPULATION
CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS YOUTH, SINCE 71.7 PERCENT, ACCORDING TO
LATEST ESTIMATES, ARE UNDER 35, AND ABOUT HALF OF THIS NUMBER
ARE UNDER 15. HOWEVER ONLY SMALL MINORITY IS POLITICALLY ACTIVE.
AGRICULTURAL YOUTH IS LARGELY INERT DESPITE PARTICIPATION IN OCCASIONAL RURAL INCIDENTS, THOUGH INFLUX INTO CITIES MAY REPRESENT IMPLIED COMMENT ON THEIR LOT. POOR URBAN YOUTH IS UNORGANIZED AND PREOCCUPIED WITH DAILY VICISSITUDES THOUGH RAPIDITY OF URBAN GROWTH MIGHT OUTSTRIP ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY JOBS AND SERVICES AND THEREBY GENERATE ACTIVE UNREST. NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF THESE GROUPS IS EARLY AGE AT WHICH FAMILIES FORMED WHICH GENERALLY TURNS YOUNG MEN'S FANCIES TO THOUGHTS OTHER THAN POLITICS.

3. MAJOR ELEMENT OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE YOUTH IS ACTUALLY AND
POTENTIALLY LOCATED WITHIN STUDENT POPULATION. EVEN WITHIN THIS
POPULATION, MAJORITY PRINCIPALLY JOB-ORIENTED RATHER THAN INTERESTED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH ACTIVIST MINORITY CAN BE VERY VOCAL.

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4. ETHOS OF MEXICAN REVOLUTION REMAINS PRINCIPAL IDEOLOGICAL 
GUIDE FOR MAJORITY OF MEXICAN YOUTH. AT SAME TIME, VAGUE KIND OF 
MARXISM, STRONG SENSE OF NATIONALISM, BOTH INVOLVING GENERALIZED 
OPPOSITION TO "IMPERIALISM", ARE PERHAPS MAJOR INTELLECTUAL 
AND IDEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: MORE POLITICALLY ORIENTED 
YOUTH. ALL THESE TEND TO GENERATE ANTI-US ORIENTATION AMONG 
THOSE GROUPS, ALTHOUGH NOTEWORTHY HOW LITTLE ACTIVITY SUPPORT CAN 
BE MOBILIZED ON ISSUES SUCH AS VIETNAM OR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

5. KEY FEATURE ABOUT ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH IN MEXICO IS: THAT 
MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO ARE ORGANIZED TAKE PART WITHIN PARAMETERS 
OF SYSTEM IN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED INAM (ABOUT 120,000) AND 
YOUTH SECTIONS OF RULING PRI AND ITS CONSTITUENT SECTOR.

THESE SUBJECTS TO IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS DISCUSSED PREVIOUS 
PARAGRAPHS; OTHER PARTIES (PPN, PPS, PSM) ALSO HAVE YOUTH ORGAN-
IZATIONS OF LIMITED STRENGTH. IN UNIVERSITIES STUDENT ORGANIZA-
TIONS ABUNDANT, RANGING FROM SEVERAL VARIETIES OF EXTREME LEFT TO 
FEW SMALLER RIGHTEST ORGANIZATIONS. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE ORGAN-
IZATIONS ARE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS (FINET), 
WHICH MAY COMPOSE 80,000 STUDENTS, BUT IS AT LEAST AT PRESENT 
ALMOST A GOVERNMENT ORGAN: COMMUNIST-SPONSORED NATIONAL CON-
FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS (CNED) AND A COMMUNIST-FRONT 
FEDERATION (FXE) WHICH ENCOMPASS ALMOST ALL RURAL NORMAL 
SCHOOLS: ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE ARE STRONGLY RIGHTIST MURF AND 
OTHER LESS MILITANT CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUPS. LEFTIST PREDOMINATE 
AMONG STUDENT GROUPS BUT GENERALLY FAIL TO GET MASS SUPPORT AND 
ARE SLAGGED BY WEAKNESS AND GENERAL FRAGMENTATION OF MEXICAN 
LEFT, YOUNG AND OLD. FRACTIOINALISM HAS CONSISTENTLY THWARTED 
PERIODIC ATTEMPTS, USUALLY FROM LEFT BUT OCCASIONALLY FROM 
GOVERNMENT, TO ORGANIZE UNION SYSTEM.

6. STUDENT UNREST, WHICH AS NOTED MEXICO 5481 IS ENDEMIC IN 
MEXICO, HAS ALMOST ALWAYS FOCUSED ON LOCAL ISSUES: BAD CONDITIONS 
IN GIVEN UNIVERSITY, ANGER AT STATE GOVERNOR, UNPOPULARITY OF 
SPECIFIC TEACHERS OR RECTORS. SUCCESS IN SECURING OUSTER OF ONE 
GOVERNOR IN 1966 (DURANGO) HAS BEEN BALANCED BY FAILURE IN MORE 
RECENT EFFORT (TABASCO IN 1966) AND BY GOVERNMENT FIRMNESS 
WHICH HAS EXTENDED TO POINT OF SENDING TROOPS ONTO CAMPUS IN 
MORELIA AND HERMOSILLO IN 1966 AND 1967. EXTREME LEFTISTS 
SOMETIMES INVOLVED AND OFTEN SEEK TO EXPLOIT INCIDENTS OF UNREST 
UP MORE OFTEN THAN NOT ARE NOT INITIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. 
HOWEVER, WHILE THE LEFT CONSTANTLY SEeks TO LINK STUDENTS WITH
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LABOR AND/OR AGRARIAN AGITATION. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH LINKAGE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE.

7. KEY STABILIZING ELEMENT HERE IS THAT AMBITIOUS AND PRACTICAL IDEALISTS AMONG YOUTH STILL SEE OUTLET WITHIN THE SYSTEM THROUGH PRI GOVERNMENT SERVICE, PROFESSIONS (USUALLY ALLIED TO GOVERNMENT) AND TO LESSENDER DEGREE IN PRIVATE SECTOR. COMMON LIFE CYCLE IS FOR YOUNG MAN TO GO THROUGH MARXIST PHASE (OFTEN EXTREME) IN UNIVERSITY AND TO BE ABSORBED BY ESTABLISHMENT SHORTLY THEREAFTER. SOME ARE SIMPLY CAREERISTS WHO REALIZE THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE, BUT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER ALSO BELIEVE THAT REVOLUTIONARY ETHOS GUIDING RULERS RETAINS VALIDITY AND VITALITY. OPPORTUNITIES EXIST NOT ONLY FOR PERSONAL BETTERMENT BUT FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND FOR SOCIAL SERVICE. 1964 USIS STUDY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT ATTITUDES -- WHICH IS STILL ESSENTIALLY VALID -- SHOWED THAT 90 PERCENT FELT MEXICO HAS BEEN PROGRESSING FAIRLY WELL OR BETTER.

8. THE ESTABLISHMENT IN TURN SELKS ASSIDUOUSLY TO KEEP IN TUNE WITH VIEWS AND DEMANDS OF YOUTH. THUS ACTIVIZING IMPACT OF YOUTHFUL OUTBURSTS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD ON MEXICAN YOUTH IS USUALLY BALANCED BY INCREASED SELF-EXAMINATION BY GOVERNMENT. AT PRESENT, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS KNOWN THAT SOM HAS IN FACT SET IN MOTION STUDIES ALONG LINES OF REFTEL ON SITUATION OF YOUTH IN MEXICO.

9. AT SAME TIME, AS NOTED MEXICO 5481, THERE ARE NUMBER OF LONG-RANGE FACTORS WHICH COULD CHANGE SITUATION IN MEXICO, ALL OF WHICH WOULD VITALLY AFFECT YOUTH: GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT, EXPANDING URBAN POVERTY, LIMITS ON ARABLE LAND, SLOWING RATES OF INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

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INFO ARA 08,10 13, CU 04, HEW 07, NIC 01, NSA 02, CIAE 00, DOD 00, GPM 04,
H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, RP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01,
AID 28, JGP 03, 133 W

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10. FAILURE OF EDUCATION TO KEEP PACE WITH DEMANDS IS ALSO
CONTINUOUS PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO RECENT STUDY, ONLY ONE PERCENT OF
STUDENTS WHO ENTER PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL REACH UNIVERSITY LEVEL
AND INORDINATE NUMBER WHO REACH THIS LEVEL DROP OUT FOR BOTH
SCHOLASTIC AND ECONOMIC REASONS. RURAL EDUCATION IS WOEFULLY
INADEQUATE. TEACHERS' SALARIES ARE GREAT PROBLEM. TECHNICAL
EDUCATION IS INSUFFICIENT IN SCOPE AND IN RELEVANCE TO LATER
UTILIZATION. HIGHER EDUCATION SUFFERS FROM DEFICIENCIES OF
QUALITY, EXCESSIVE CONCENTRATION IN MEXICO CITY. THERE IS DEARTH
OF POST GRADUATE FACILITIES, CAUSING MANY TO GO TO US OR EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES FOR WHICH MEXICAN STUDENTS ARE OFTEN INSUFFICIENTLY
PREPARED. NEVERTHELESS MEXICAN REVOLUTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN
EDUCATION-CONSCIOUS, 25 PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET GOING TO
THAT PURPOSE, AND ACTIVE EFFORTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO SEEK
EVEN MORE FUNDS.

11. OUR CONCLUSIONS REMAIN AS STATED IN MEXICO 5481 THAT SITUATION
WITH RESPECT TO YOUTH IN MEXICO IS UNLIKELY TO REACH CRITICAL
PROPORTIONS AT LEAST IN NEXT FEW YEARS, ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY SERIOUS
AND DIFFICULT LONG-TERM PROBLEMS CAUTION AGAINST ANY COMPLACENCY.
FREEMAN