COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI: 24 AND 25 SEPTEMBER 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

1. A DEMONSTRATION BY STUDENTS WAS PLANNED TO BEGIN AT 1700 HOURS ON 25 SEPTEMBER 1968, WITH THE MARCH ROUTE THE SAME AS IN THE PAST, FROM THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEUM TO THE LOCALO. AS OF 1700 HOURS THREE TRUCK LOADS OF GRENADE HOLDERS WERE STATIONED AT THE MUSEUM, AND ANY YOUTH APPEARING WERE BEING TURNED AWAY FROM THE AREA. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS PLANNED DURING A PEACEFUL GATHERING OF ABOUT 10,000 STUDENTS ON THE MORNING OF 24 SEPTEMBER IN THE PLAZA DE LAS TRES CULTURAS IN TLAZILCO.
IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED OVERTLY THAT THE CNH IS PLANNING A PROTEST RALLY FOR 27 SEPTEMBER AT 1730 HOURS AT THE PLAZA DE LAS TRES CULTURAS.

...same time police urged troops and armored cars had surrounded Chapultepec Park, the area of the Anthropological Museum, and had cordoned off the Paseo de la Reforma between the Petroleum Monument and the Diana Monument in an effort to isolate the intended demonstration gathering point.

3. Early in the evening of 24 September, about 500 students assembled in front of Vocational Schools Two and Five and kept agitating against the police who were occupying these schools. At Vocational School No. Two a policeman pulled his pistol, evidently planning to fire over the students' heads, but he did not raise the weapon high enough and shot and killed one student. It is...
NOT AWARE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE POLICEMAN. MEXICAN SECURITY OFFICIALS CONSIDERED THIS A SERIOUS INCIDENT, WHICH COULD CAUSE EVEN MORE PROBLEMS.) AT 17:00 HOURS ON 25 SEPTEMBER, 156 STUDENTS HAD GATHERED AT THE VICTIM'S HOME, PRESUMABLY TO JOIN THE FUNERAL PROCESSION TO THE CEMETERY. THE OCCASION WAS BEING WATCHED BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY SERVICE.

4. THE GOVERNMENT POLICY CURRENTLY BEING FOLLOWED TO QUELL THE STUDENT UPRISINGS CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION BY THE ARMY AND/OR THE POLICE OF ANY SCHOOL WHICH IS BEING USED ILLEGALLY AS A CENTER OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO BE FOLLOWED UNTIL COMPLETE CALM PREVAILS. BOTH THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (GOBERNACION) AND THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL SECURITY (DFS) STATE THAT, IN THEIR OPINION, NO DANGER EXISTS THAT THE OLYMPIC GAMES WILL BE AFFECTED, AND, FURTHER, THAT THE SITUATION WILL BE UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL VERY SHORTLY, MEANING A CESSATION OF ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE SUCH AS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. AS OF 16:00 HOURS ON 25 SEPTEMBER, NO VIOLENCE OR INCIDENTS HAD BEEN REPORTED OR DETECTED, EXCEPT FOR THE PLANNED, DISORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION (PARAGRAPH ONE, ABOVE) WHICH WAS BEING PROHIBITED.
5. The CMM is now staffed and operating out of a
reoccupied building at the Zacatenco Unit of the National
Polytechnic Institute (IPN). It claims to be in satisfactory
communication with student elements in the Federal District and
outlying universities. The CMM members claim that the Olympics
are not a target for disruption but that they offer an
irresistible way of bringing pressure on the government to
achieve demands. While no attempts will be made to break up the
Olympics, the students will use the occasion to bring issues before
the public.