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TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

REPORT CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
COUNTRY: MEXICO
DOI: 3 OCTOBER 1968
SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY

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SOURCE:

1. THIS IS AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE CLASH BETWEEN STUDENTS AND MEXICAN ARMY TROOPS IN MEXICO CITY DURING THE EVENING OF 2 OCTOBER 1968.

2. THE OUTBREAK OF RIOTING IN THE PLAZA DE LAS TRES CULTURAS WHICH COMMENCED AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER CONTROL AT 1915 HOURS, ALTHOUGH AS OF 0000 HOURS ON 3 OCTOBER INTERMITTENT FIRING CONTINUED. A SENIOR [REDACTED] COUNTED EIGHT DEAD STUDENTS AND SIX DEAD SOLDIERS, BUT [REDACTED] THERE WERE MANY MORE

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FATALITIES.

A NEARBY RED CROSS INSTALLATION HAD ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN WOUNDED STUDENTS AND THIRTY WOUNDED SOLDIERS, BUT THE MAJORITY OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING A PARATROOP BATTALION THAT WAS ENGAGED IN THE ENCOUNTER RECEIVED A BULLET WOUND IN THE CHEST, AND HE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE.

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THE FIRST SHOTS WERE FIRED BY THE STUDENTS WHO HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS IN THE EDIFICIO CHIHUAHUA, AN APARTMENT BUILDING IN THE PLAZA. SOME OF THE STUDENTS WERE IN POSSESSION OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. ARMY TROOPS WHO LATER ENTERED THIS BUILDING DISCOVERED MANY WEAPONS AND CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION.

4. AN AMERICAN

EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS WAS A PREMEDITATED ENCOUNTER PROVOKED BY THE STUDENTS.

ONLY A SCATTERING OF TROOPS WAS PRESENT ON THE FRINGES OF THE DEMONSTRATION WHEN FIRING FROM THE STUDENTS BEGAN, BUT ARMY REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

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5.

MOST OF THE STUDENTS PRESENT ON THE SPEAKERS' PLATFORM WERE ARMED, ONE WITH A SUB-MACHINEGUN, AND THEY STARTED SHOOTING WHEN TROOPS MOVED IN TO DISPERSE THE GATHERING. TROOPS WERE ONLY ANSWERING THE FIRE FROM THE STUDENTS.

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6. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT THUS FAR IN THE RASH OF STUDENT DISTURBANCES WHICH BEGAN IN LATE JULY. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE IMPACT OF THIS EVENT ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES WHICH ARE TO BEGIN ON 12 OCTOBER, BUT IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IT MIGHT CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE DEGREE OF ORDER WHICH VISITORS WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT TO ENJOY ON SUCH AN OCCASION.

7. DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT.

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