

RELEASED IN FULL

E21

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07650 092047Z

72  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /051 W  
----- 077654

R 091921Z SEP 74  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3711  
INFO DIA WASHDC

~~SECRET~~  
MEXICO 7650  
DECAPIED

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, MX  
SUBJ: ALLEGED MILITARY DISCONTENT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD THROUGH AN UNTESTED SOURCE OF TALK AMONG YOUNG GOM CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IN LATE AUGUST OF PLANS FOR A MILITARY COUP. EMBASSY CONTACT, QUOTING A SOURCE UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY BUT REPORTEDLY RELATED THROUGH FAMILY OR FRIENDSHIP TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, GENERAL CUENCA DIAZ, SAID GENERAL HAD TOLD HIM MILITARY HIGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT. IT WAS A MISTAKE, GENERAL CONTINUED, TO THINK MILITARY GIVING ECHEVERRIA FULL SUPPORT AND, IN FACT, IF PRESENT DRIFT OF COUNTRY SHOULD CONTINUE, MILITARY WAS PREPARED TO TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE ECHEVERRIA.

2. PERHAPS RELEVANT TO FOREGOING IS COMMENT BY CARL MIGDAIL (PROTECT) OF U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, WHO RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR OF VISIT TO PRI PRESIDENT REYES HEROLES. MIGDAIL SAID REYES TOLD HIM HE WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INCORPORATE THE ARMY INTO THE PRI, AS THIS HAD BEEN NEGLECTED IN RECENT YEARS. REYES ADDED THAT ONE LESSON LEARNED FROM CHILEAN EXPERIENCE WAS THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN APOLITICAL ARMY IN LATIN AMERICA.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07650 092047Z

3. IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND FAUSTO ZAPATA (SUBSECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY) ON SEPTEMBER 6, SUBJECT OF MEXICAN ARMY AROSE. ZAPATA SAID ARMED FORCES THOROUGHLY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 JAN 1999 199800894

REGATED INTO GOM AND POSED NO PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT FOREGOING MUST BE NOTED AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY USG. AT SAME TIME, GREATEST CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED TO AVOID OVERESTIMATING SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE BITS AND PIECES OF UNSUBSTANTIATED STORIES. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP OVER AIMS AND PROCEDURES OF CAMPAIGN

IN GUERRERO TO CAPTURE GUERRILLA LEADER CABANAS AND FREE SENATOR FIGUEROA. AFTER ARMY'S SUCCESS ON SEPTEMBER 8 IN FREEING SENATOR FIGUEROA IN REPORTED SHOOT-OUT WITH CABANAS' FORCES, (SEE 3053)). ARMY RESENTMENT OVER TERMS OF ITS MISSION MAY QUICKLY DIE.

EMBASSY ASSESSMENT, IN ANY CASE, CONTINUES TO BE THAT MEXICAN MILITARY ACCEPTS ROLE SUBORDINATE TO CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP AND HAS LONG DONE SO. THERE IS NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS DISCONTENT WITHIN ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE OR WITHIN INFLUENTIAL GROUPS WITHIN THE MILITARY. EMBASSY FURTHER CONCLUDES THAT GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTION TO REMOVE THE PRESIDENT IS WHOLLY LACKING, DESPITE DISCONTENT OF SOME ELEMENT OF SOCIETY ON THE EXTREMES OF RIGHT AND LEFT. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, BE ALERT TO ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE ON THIS SUBJECT.

BRANDIN

[REDACTED]

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* [REDACTED]  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]