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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : AmEmbassy, MEXICO, D.F.

DATE: January 3, 1963
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTELLIGENCE AFFAIRS
1/7/63

SUBJECT : Communist Inspired Armed Attack on Local Authority in Iguala, Guerrero

REF :

An armed attack on the City Hall in Iguala (a fairly important town in northern Guerrero, a few hours drive from Mexico City on the highway to Acapulco) took place in the early morning hours of December 31. The attackers were members of the Asociacion Civica Guerrerence (ACG), a state-wide political opposition group which unsuccessfully ran candidates against those of the official party, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), in the recent elections in the State of Guerrero. The attack was designed to prevent the PRI candidates from assuming office on January 1, and was led by the defeated ACG gubernatorial candidate, Jose Maria SUAREZ Tellez; the defeated Iguala mayoralty candidate, Andres LOPEZ Velaseo; and the state leader of the ACG, Jenaro VAZQUEZ Rojas. These men and their supporters, reportedly as many as 200, in addition to about a dozen renegade municipal police (henchmen of outgoing Mayor Israel SALMERON), very soon ran into trouble, as Mexican Army personnel were already in position awaiting an attack.

The Army had already been reinforcing its units in various parts of the State of Guerrero for some days upon the request of the Federal Attorney General who expected trouble in that long scandal-ridden and politically corrupt State. The attack was squashed fairly rapidly with at lease seven killed and a dozen or more wounded, almost all being ACG members. Lopez Velasco and Suarez Tellez were captured and are being held, along with over 150 others believed to be members of

the ACG

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Drafted by: POL/RWAdams:mwa

Contents and Classification Approved by: RWAdams *Punk*

Clearances:

By *MWA* Date *1/2/63*
Authority *NND 999510*

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-2-

the ACG (including the renegade policemen), for investigation by the Federal Attorney General who has already sent a large number of agents to take over the case in Guerrero. Jenaro VAZQUEZ, reportedly wounded, escaped and is the object of a state-wide search. On January 1, outgoing Mayor Salmeron turned over office to his PRI successor, Gilberto MOTA Lazos, prominent local businessman, and was immediately thereafter placed under arrest as one of the "intellectual authors" of the abortive uprising.

Salmeron, not elected but appointed to office two years ago on the heels of another political scandal in Iguala, is a long-time member of Lombardo Toledano's communist party, the PPS, although recently holding himself to be a loyal member of the PRI. Suarez Tellez, also long active in the PPS and Communist Party, is now a member of the 29-man national committee of the communist-controlled Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN). Jenaro Vazquez, who may be connected with Lázaro Cárdenas' close friend and former Cabinet Minister of the same name, is known to have been detained temporarily two years ago as a communist during a security round-up connected with President Eisenhower's visit to Acapulco.

It seems fairly clear that the ACG is one of the local state parties or "civic groups" being developed by the MLN to oppose the PRI at the municipal and state levels while itself continuing to claim that it is simply a "civic organization" loyal to the PRI without any desire to become a political party. It will be recalled that the MLN quietly supported Alfonso GARZON, the Mexicali area agrarian demagogue, in his bolting the PRI and running, although unsuccessfully, for the mayoralty of Mexicali in opposition to the PRI.

Unlike recent incidents and abortive uprisings elsewhere in the country (notably in Oaxaca and Michoacan -- see Embassy's A-755), where it is still unclear who was actually responsible (although the anti-communist Partido de Accion Nacional is generally blamed in semi-official releases), the Iguala incident appears to be clearly the doings of the MLN. Why the MLN, which has recently been quite cautious in order not to antagonize the government unduly,

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-3-

would have countenanced the Iguala attack is uncertain. It may be that Suarez Tellez and Jenaro Vazquez, swept up in the heat of local politics and year-end carousing, went far beyond what the MLN would have intended in its "loyal, civic opposition" to the PRI.

The outcome of the Iguala incident has, however, been favorable to our interests here, as it is a clear indication that the government, using the combined strength of the Army, the Attorney General's office, and State and municipal authorities, is prepared to engage in a carefully planned operation to thwart the Cardenistas and the MLN.

For the Ambassador:

Robert W. Adams
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By *MLN* Date *9/21/07*