

MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

INFORMATION

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *K*

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, September 8

You are scheduled to participate with President Diaz Ordaz in a ceremony dedicating the Amistad (Friendship) Dam at 1:35 p. m. September 8, when you will be returning to Washington from San Clemente. Amistad Dam, which is located on the Rio Grande 12 miles from Del Rio, Texas, was constructed jointly by Mexico and the United States under the auspices of the US-Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission.

You and President Diaz Ordaz are each scheduled to make brief (6-10 minutes) addresses at the dam site during the dedication ceremony. Following the ceremony (which will last about 50 minutes), President Diaz Ordaz will host a luncheon for approximately 110 guests at a building on the Mexican side of the border. (President Johnson hosted at the last meeting in El Paso in December, 1968.) After the luncheon you are scheduled to meet privately for about 45 minutes with President Diaz Ordaz in another room. President Diaz Ordaz does not speak English. He specifically requested that the State Department provide its interpreter, Donald Barnes, whom he knows from previous meetings.

Mexican Foreign Minister Carrillo Flores, Secretary Rogers, and other advisers will meet simultaneously in an adjacent room and will be available should you wish them to join you later. (The ladies will remain in the luncheon room for a musical program.)

Following your private conversation, you will rejoin the guests in the dining room. You may wish to suggest that you and President Diaz Ordaz offer brief farewell remarks.

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

President Diaz Ordaz will arrive for the meeting at the airfield in Ciudad Acuna, across the river from Del Rio. He will motor to the dam site and meet you there, where appropriate honors will be rendered in front of the assembled crowd. Because of his recent eye operation, President Diaz Ordaz cannot travel by helicopter; therefore, he will depart the dam by car separately after your private meeting. A schedule of the entire meeting and a detailed scenario is at Enclosure 6.

The temperature is likely to be quite high during the open-air ceremony. However, the luncheon and private meeting will be held in an air-conditioned building.

Talking Points on the subjects likely to arise during your conversation with President Diaz Ordaz and Background Papers on these subjects are at Enclosure 1. A memorandum from Secretary Rogers on the background and objectives of the meeting is at Enclosure 2. A copy of Governor Rockefeller's memorandum to you summarizing his conversation with President Diaz Ordaz in Mexico during his visit there in May is attached for your background information at Enclosure 3.

Talking Points for your brief address at the dedication ceremony, your toast at the luncheon and a possible farewell statement are at Enclosure 4. Additional background information and biographic material are at Enclosures 5 and 7.

The meeting at Amistad Dam is important because it will demonstrate the continuation of the close and constructive relations which exist between the United States and Mexico. It will give you an opportunity to establish your personal interest in maintaining a special relationship with the Mexican President.

I believe it will also be a fitting occasion to begin, in your public remarks, to affirm your recognition of the special Western Hemisphere relationship (as you indicated in the recent NSC discussion on Latin America) as a concept which will underlie your new Latin American policies.

The Latins understand that your basic policy decisions will be taken after you have reviewed the Rockefeller Report, but they are very anxious for reassuring signals that they are not forgotten

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

among your other priority concerns. The "special relationship" theme will be reassuring to them, but will not foreclose any specific policy or program options. It also ties in nicely to the Mexican meeting, since Mexico can be cited as a prime example of the "special relationship."

President Diaz Ordaz attaches great importance to his meeting with you. He is in the fifth year of a six-year term of office (ineligible for re-election) and he is particularly proud of having maintained cordial relations with the United States without compromising Mexico's basic foreign policy tenet of strict independence. Diaz Ordaz will be interested in establishing a personal rapport with you and demonstrating his rapport to the Mexican people. We have no major bilateral problems outstanding with Mexico, and we anticipate that he will raise few bilateral issues at your first meeting.

The main subjects President Diaz Ordaz may wish to raise with you are:

1. US-Mexico Trade Relations: Diaz Ordaz may express concern about the growing protectionist feeling in the US and measures which restrict importation of commodities important to Mexico (he emphasized this point to Governor Rockefeller).
2. Colorado River Water Salinity: Diaz Ordaz may indicate that he is under domestic pressure to take the matter of Colorado River salinity to the International Court of Justice, but that he intends to continue working for a practical solution along the lines of the 1965 agreement.

You may wish to raise the following points with Diaz Ordaz:

1. Narcotics: It would be useful for you to inform President Diaz Ordaz of our concern and general intentions regarding the narcotics problem and to reassure him that we will consult with Mexico before firm decisions are taken in matters which affect Mexico.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

2. Settlement of Remaining Territorial Issues: You may want to indicate your support for the efforts of the IBWC Commissioner's efforts to find cooperative solutions to the minor territorial problems remaining between our two countries.

3. US-Latin American Relations: You may wish to indicate the administration is giving active consideration to Governor Rockefeller's Report, note the importance you attach to the special Western Hemisphere relationship, and ask Diaz Ordaz for his views on Latin America-United States relations.

4. Your Recent World Trip: To convey the impression you recognize Mexico's global role, you may want to give President Diaz Ordaz a brief account of your recent world trip and of the US approach to major world problems.

President Diaz Ordaz has been a moderate and effective leader of Mexico. However, there are indications that he has begun to suffer somewhat from a "lameduck" syndrome. A lawyer, scholar, and politician, Diaz Ordaz is a serious yet cordial man of genuinely simple and conservative tastes. He regards his personal relationship with the American President as a matter of great personal satisfaction and is delighted by your decision to meet with him at Amistad Dam. He will do everything possible to make the visit pleasant, cordial and non-controversial.

SECRET

## INDEX

## ENCLOSURE

TAB

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | TALKING POINTS                          |   |
|    | Talking Points Memorandum               |   |
|    | Backup Papers                           |   |
|    | United States - Mexico Trade            | A |
|    | Lower Colorado River Salinity Problem   | B |
|    | Lower Rio Grande Flood Control          | C |
|    | Control of Illegal Traffic in Artifacts | D |
|    | Gulf of California Desalting Study      | E |
|    | Gulf of California                      | F |
|    | United States-Mexico Commission for     |   |
|    | Border Development and Friendship       | G |
|    | Narcotics                               | H |
|    | Settlement of all Pending Territorial   |   |
|    | Differences                             | I |
|    | Honduras-El Salvador Conflict           | J |
|    | Other Outstanding Bilateral Issues      | K |
| 2. | MEMORANDUM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE      |   |
| 3. | MEMORANDUM FROM GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER    |   |
| 4. | PUBLIC STATEMENTS (Separate Package)    |   |
|    | Remarks at Dedication of Amistad Dam    | A |
|    | -- Text at Tab I                        |   |
|    | -- Talking Points at Tab II             |   |
|    | Toast at Luncheon                       | B |
|    | Farewell Remarks                        | C |
| 5. | BACKGROUND PAPERS                       |   |
|    | Fact Sheet on Amistad Dam               | A |
|    | Basic Facts on Mexico                   | B |
|    | Mexican Political Situation             | C |
|    | Mexican Foreign Relations *             | D |
| 6. | SCHEDULE                                |   |
|    | Schedule                                | A |
|    | Detailed Scenario                       | B |
| 7. | BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL                     |   |
|    | Gustavo Diaz Ordaz                      | A |

INDEX (contd)

Guadalupe Borja de Diaz Ordaz  
Antonio Carrillo Flores  
Fanny Gamboa de Castillo Flores  
Hugo B. Margain  
Margarita de Margain

TAB

B  
C  
D  
E  
F

SECRET

TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR MEETING  
WITH PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ OF MEXICO  
September 8, 1969

SUMMARY

Points to Emphasize

- The importance you attach to continuing cooperative and cordial relations and mutual respect which exist between Mexico and the United States.
- Recognition of Mexico's role in the hemisphere and international affairs.
- Your desire to maintain a close personal relationship with the Mexican President and to consult with him on matters of mutual interest.
- Your recognition of the special Western Hemisphere relationship, which underlies your desire to improve the effectiveness of our policies and programs in Latin America.

You may wish to seek Diaz Ordaz' views on

- The state of United States-Latin American relations.
- How the US can establish the kind of constructive relationship it has with Mexico throughout the hemisphere.

For openers, you may wish to

- Recall your interesting visits to Mexico in 1952, 1955, and 1967.
- Stress your hope that you can continue the tradition of maintaining a close personal relationship between the US and Mexican Presidents.
- Express appreciation for the warm reception accorded Governor Rockefeller, and more recently Ambassador McBride.

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

- Extend best wishes on the forthcoming marriage (September 10) of President Diaz Ordaz' son.
- Congratulate him on an effective administration which has maintained Mexico's outstanding economic progress.
- Express hope that he has fully recovered from his recent eye operation.

### Topics Diaz Ordaz May Raise

#### 1. US-Mexican Relations

Diaz Ordaz may wish to comment, as he did to Governor Rockefeller, on the state of US-Mexican Relations. He will probably say:

- Mexico's foreign policy derives from its sovereign independence and its own personality.
- However, the United States can count on Mexico's strong friendship when it is faced with any major problem or military danger.
- Our bilateral relations are excellent; all major differences between our two countries have been cleared up.
- He hopes to maintain close personal contact with you.

#### You may wish to say

- You value our cordial relations with Mexico as an essential element of our foreign policy.
- The excellent relations between our countries rest on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, as well as on mutual interests.
- You share President Diaz Ordaz' desire to maintain close personal relations, as your predecessors did.
- You intend to consult with him from time to time on matters of mutual interest.

SECRET



SECRET

-6-

- He may note that the US reaction is unfortunately being interpreted in some quarters as a sign of a cooling in US-Mexican relations.

You may wish to say

- Our reservation relates solely to our concern that Mexico's claim could be used as a precedent for closing international waters elsewhere in which we have strong security and other interests.
- Our response should not be considered in the context of our bilateral relations, but rather as a matter of principle in the context of our global interests.

8. US-Mexico Border Development Commission (CODAF)  
(Background Paper at Tab G)

Diaz Ordaz may ask for your judgment of the work of the Border Development Commission. He may express concern over some border issues, such as sales by duty free stores along the border, US union pressures against entry of Mexican laborers ("green card" holders) into the United States, and establishment of US border industries in Mexico.

You may wish to say

- CODAF has done some useful work in improving living conditions along the border.
- You have full confidence that the new Chairman of the US Section, Assistant Secretary Meyer and the new Executive Director, Antonio Rodríguez, will help the Commission to achieve its potential for dealing with border problems.

POINTS YOU MAY WISH TO RAISE

1. The Narcotics Problem (Background Paper at Tab H)

A major US enforcement effort in this field will get under way shortly. This will involve tightening up controls along the Mexican border, where a large percentage of narcotics traffic passes. We

SECRET

SECRET

-7-

have held consultations with the Mexican Government, but an unfortunate slip-up last week by the Navy, which announced that it was declaring Tiajuana off limits to all military personnel because of exposure to narcotics, ruffled Mexican sensitivities. Ambassador McBride has explained to the Mexican Government that the Navy announcement was an error and that no firm decisions have been taken.

You may wish to say

- We are very much concerned about the problem of drug abuse in the United States.
- We appreciate Mexico's continuing cooperation in trying to meet this problem; you understand that at the meeting of enforcement officials in Mexico last June, both sides agreed on the need for stepped up enforcement activities.
- We are considering plans for major enforcement efforts.
- Ambassador McBride will be instructed to consult with Foreign Secretary Carrillo Flores in advance of any effort, after firm decisions are taken.
- You hope that our enforcement officials can continue to work together closely. We would be happy to host another meeting soon in Washington.

2. Settlement of Remaining Territorial Issues (Background Paper Tab I)

There are several minor territorial questions pending with Mexico. The most important of these relates to the Ojinaga tracts, which are under active discussion between the IBWC Commissioners.

You may wish to say

- You understand that this matter is under active discussion.
- You support this effort and regard it as evidence of the intention of both countries to find cooperative solutions to long-standing problems.

SECRET

SECRET

-8-

Diaz Ordaz will probably say

- He hopes this problem can be resolved in a cooperative way.
- It may be desirable to try to achieve a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding territorial issues, including agreement on procedures to deal with such territorial questions in the future.

3. El Salvador-Honduras Conflict

It might be useful to comment on the continuing problem of the El Salvador-Honduras dispute and encourage Diaz Ordaz to have the Mexican Government play a more active role in seeking a solution.

You may wish to say

- You were gratified that the OAS members were effective in their effort to obtain prompt withdrawal of Salvadoran troops.
- The roots of the problem are complex and deep, and it is important that the OAS members continue to work actively towards a permanent solution to prevent a renewal of hostilities.
- We are working quietly, both bilaterally and through the OAS mechanisms, to persuade both Honduras and El Salvador to adopt more conciliatory attitudes for negotiations and to reverse the growing arms race between the two countries.
- You feel that Mexico, which has great influence in Central America, can be very helpful in seeking a constructive solution.

Diaz Ordaz will probably say

- He shares your concern about the situation.
- Mexico will continue to work with the other OAS members to find a positive solution.

SECRET

SECRET

-9-

- Mexico must proceed with some restraint, since some Central Americans increasingly view Mexico as the "Colossus of the North."

#### 4. US-Latin American Relations

##### You may wish to say

- We are giving very active consideration to Governor Rockefeller's report in considering new approaches to our Latin American policy.
- You believe that the United States is bound to the nations of the Western Hemisphere by a special relationship, and that concept will underlie our policy approach.
- You would be interested in President Diaz Ordaz' views on the state of US-Latin American relations.

##### Diaz Ordaz will probably say

- He has always felt that the Alliance for Progress raised high hopes which could not be fulfilled.
- US trade policy is critically important to Latin American economic progress.
- He told Governor Rockefeller that the Inter-American system needs to be reinvigorated politically and coordinated more effectively with other organizations.

#### 5. Your Recent World Trip

You may wish to give President Diaz Ordaz a brief account of the highlights of your recent world trip and of your approach to some major world problems.

SECRET

PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1969

Background Paper

United States-Mexico Commission  
For Border Development and Friendship

Organization and History

The US-Mexico Commission for Border Development and Friendship was created through an Exchange of Notes dated November 30 and December 3, 1966, in accordance with previous agreement that a joint commission would help to accelerate the economic and social development of both sides of the border and strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

The Commission consists of sub-cabinet level representatives from the major federal departments of both nations. A series of joint work groups deal with specific areas of concern. On the US side, the work groups include representatives of federal agencies, as appropriate, and the CODAF staff.

Assistant Secretary Charles A. Meyer is the Chairman of the US Section of the Commission and Mr. Antonio F. Rodriguez is the Commissioner-Director. Ambassador Enrique Sodi Alvarez is Chairman of the Mexican Section of the Commission. He also serves as Director of the National Frontier Program (PRONAF).

Objectives and Functions

CODAF's objective is to address itself to the improvement of economic and social conditions along both sides of the border through cooperative or parallel programs. In

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Exempted from automatic decontrol.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 2 -

addition, the Mexican Government proposed that CODAF should concern itself with any programs which would stimulate "friendship" between the two countries.

Accordingly, CODAF stimulates and guides:

- 1) The development of plans and proposals for joint, cooperative or parallel activities of mutual benefit by focusing the interest and resources of the two federal governments on border problems.
- 2) Contacts and working relationships between local governments and institutions along the border.
- 3) Demonstration or technical assistance projects, in the context of cooperative programs with Mexico, which can help meet the needs of local border areas.

Legislative Background

During its first two years of operation, as CODAF was finding its way, it was not clear that the US Section's limited coordinating functions would require statutory authorization. However, last year the Congress indicated it no longer approved of the method of financing US-CODAF's overhead expenses by contributions of the participating agencies. Accordingly, authorizing legislation is now necessary. Senate Joint Resolution 119 establishing the Commission is now under consideration by Congress.

Program

Although the specific programs to be addressed by CODAF depend on the conclusions reached at frequent meetings held by working groups, it is anticipated that during the coming year emphasis will continue to be placed on joint urban development planning, tourism, manpower studies, vocational training, and cultural exchanges.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1969

Background Paper

Narcotics

The use of narcotics, dangerous drugs, and marihuana has increased drastically in recent years in the U.S. A large percentage of the narcotic traffic comes from Mexico. Mexican enforcement efforts have slowly improved but are still inadequate to cope with the problem.

A team of U.S. enforcement officials, led by the Deputy Attorney General, met with their Mexican counterparts in June, 1969. This meeting was one of a series of informal discussions which began in 1961 and have been held at irregular intervals since then. The participants discussed means of improving informal cooperation between the two countries on narcotics enforcement. The two sides issued a communique which, among other things, called upon both countries to accelerate their respective enforcement activities.

Over the years, the Mexicans have resisted U.S. initiatives to establish a formal bilateral commission to coordinate narcotics enforcement. They have, however, agreed to the stationing of U.S. enforcement officers on Mexican soil, have accepted materiel from the U.S. to help in their narcotics and marihuana eradication programs, and have exchanged intelligence with us.

Ambassador McBride has informed President Diaz Ordaz of our great concern over the worsening narcotic problem, and the President assured him of Mexico's desire to

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

continue collaborating closely with us. Our major problem will be to convince the Mexicans to divert substantial additional resources into improving their police capability. The Mexicans are very sensitive to any suggestion that Mexico itself is to blame for the present drug situation in the U.S., or that Mexico has been lax in enforcement. Accordingly in our approach to Mexico on this issue it is important to acknowledge the cooperation received from Mexico in the past.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Your Meeting with President  
Gustavo Diaz Ordaz of Mexico,  
September 8, 1969

You are scheduled to meet with President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz on September 8, 1969, to dedicate the new Amistad ("Friendship") Dam, located near Del Rio, Texas. The Dam was constructed jointly by Mexico and the United States under the auspices of the Mexico-U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission.

The meeting is important because it will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your personal interest in maintaining the cordial relations which exist between our countries. We believe the theme of the meeting should be that the Amistad Dam is a tangible benefit of enlightened cooperation and respect between good neighbors.

President Diaz Ordaz is in the fifth year of a six-year term of office. He is not eligible for re-election. He is particularly proud of having maintained cordial relations with us without compromising the basic Mexican foreign policy tenet of strict independence.

We anticipate that President Diaz Ordaz will not discuss bilateral issues extensively at your first meeting. He will be interested mainly in establishing

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

Aug 29 7 34 PM '69  
RECEIVED  
NSC

CONFIDENTIAL

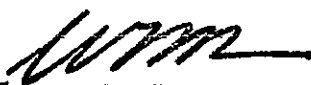
- 2 -

a personal rapport with you and demonstrating this rapport to the Mexican public which can be expected to give your meeting close scrutiny. He may use the occasion, however, to express his general view of the importance to Mexico of trade with the U. S. He may also mention the problem of Colorado River water salinity.

For our part, we wish to emphasize our desire for continuing constructive relations with Mexico. We are discussing with Mexico the possibility of an omnibus settlement of remaining territorial issues (all of them minor) along the Rio Grande. You may wish to express your support, in principle, for efforts to reach such a settlement.

You may also wish to raise the question of narcotics and drug abuse. A major U. S. enforcement effort in this field will get under way shortly. This effort will cause some inconvenience to travelers on the U. S. side of the frontier and will, no doubt, provoke a certain degree of indignation among Mexican merchants and others dependent on the tourist trade. It would be appropriate and desirable for you to inform President Diaz Ordaz of our general intentions, while expressing your recognition of the fact that Mexico is cooperating with us in efforts to solve the drug problem.

Talking points are enclosed. Additional briefing materials will be available to you under separate cover.

  
William P. Rogers

Enclosure:

Talking points

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIALTALKING PAPER FOR YOUR MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ OF MEXICO  
September 8, 1969TALKING POINTSPresidential Opener

- I recall my very interesting visits to Mexico in 1952, 1955, and again in 1967.
- I am looking forward to continuing the close cooperation and collaboration which have characterized Mexican-U.S. Presidential relations in recent years.
- Mrs. Nixon and I extend our very best wishes to your son who, I understand, is to be married on September 10.
- I appreciate the warm reception given by you first to Governor Rockefeller and subsequently to Ambassador McBride when the latter presented his credentials in July.
- I am most satisfied that no major differences exist between our countries on substantive matters. I would, however, like to bring two matters to your attention.
  - a. My grave concern about growing drug abuse in the United States.
- I was most pleased to hear of your assurances of continuing Mexican cooperation in meeting this problem (given to Ambassador McBride). I was particularly glad that at the June meeting of enforcement officials in Mexico City both sides agreed on the need for stepped-up enforcement activities.

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

- I am planning to initiate very soon a major enforcement effort in the U.S.
- This effort may result in some inconveniences to travelers in the U.S. border area.
- Ambassador McBride will be instructed to brief Foreign Secretary Carrillo Flores in advance of this effort.
- I hope that both countries can arrange to hold another informal meeting of enforcement officers in the very near future. We will be happy to act as host for such a meeting in Washington.
- b. The U.S. desires to push ahead on the settlement of remaining territorial issues between the two countries along the Rio Grande.
- I understand this matter is under active discussion between the IBWC Commissioners and between Ambassador McBride and the Mexican Foreign Secretary.
- I support this effort and regard it as another proof of the intention of both countries to find cooperative solutions to long-standing problems.

Topics Diaz Ordaz May RaiseTrade

- Diaz Ordaz may emphasize to you the great importance he places on continuing access to U.S. markets for Mexican products. The President may express concern over the delay in creating the system of generalized trade preferences to aid all developing countries.

You May Wish to Say

- Governor Rockefeller has already informed me that trade is uppermost on the minds of all Latin

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

American leaders. I anticipate that the Governor's formal report will give much attention to this matter. As far as Mexico specifically is concerned we have always given special attention to assuring that differences between us are equitably settled and we shall continue to do so. We are happy and pleased that various channels such as the Joint Trade Committee are available for consultation on matters of trade, and we shall continue to utilize these channels fully.

- The United States is well aware of the importance that Mexico and other developing countries place on the creation of the generalized preferences system. The United States is carefully studying the matter and has already tabled its ideas on the subject with the OECD. In coming weeks a joint report on preferences will be worked out by the industrialized countries in the OECD. This report will be presented to the developing countries for their consideration in November.

#### Colorado River Salinity

- Diaz Ordaz may bring to your attention his concern over renewed public outcry in Mexico on the Colorado River salinity issue. He will probably say that despite pressures to take the matter to the International Court of Justice, his Government intends to continue working for a practical solution along the lines of the 1965 agreement between Mexico and the U.S.

#### You May Wish to Say

- The U.S. will continue to reduce, as rapidly as it practically can, the salinity of the water delivered to Mexico. We hope that the two Governments will be able to extend the 1965 agreement which expires in November 1970 and in this way find the means to a practical solution.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1969

Background Paper

Mexican Political Situation

The Mexican political situation continues stable. President Diaz Ordaz has provided five years of moderate, effective leadership. There is no political party capable of providing serious competition to the ruling PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) on a nationwide scale.

- President Diaz Ordaz's term in office ends December 1, 1970. Under the Mexican Constitution he cannot be re-elected.
- The selection of Diaz Ordaz's successor will occur this fall and general elections will be held in the summer of 1970. After extensive consultations with party leaders, President Diaz Ordaz will make known his choice. The chosen man will then be ratified by a Party convention.
- At this point, there are three or four men who are given a good chance to be selected. All are Cabinet Ministers: Luis Echeverria (Secretary of Government); Emilio Martinez

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

Manautou (Secretary of the Presidency); Juan Gil Preciado (Secretary of Agriculture); and Alfonso Corona del Rosal (Regent of the Federal District). All of these men are of relatively moderate persuasion; none are associated with the left or right wing of the party. All would be acceptable from the United States point of view.

There are several trouble spots in the internal situation with the potential to become serious problems in the future.

- The student riots last fall revealed a "generation gap" in Mexican politics. Important sectors of Mexican youth clearly believe that the PRI is now more concerned with perpetuation of its own power than with continuing economic/social reform. Winning back the allegiance of these alienated sectors will be an important and difficult task.
- The moderately conservative PAN (Partido de Accion Nacional) has been making slow but steady progress in certain areas of Mexico, although it controls no more than about 10 percent of the national vote. It has won several important local elections in the past several years. This fall the PAN is expected to make a determined bid for the Governorship of the State of Yucatan. The PRI could face a dilemma in this situation. It has never lost a state election and to do

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

so would be a severe psychological setback. On the other hand, if the PRI rigs the election in Yucatan, the youth alienation, referred to above, may be accelerated.

In general, however, the PRI continues to hold the support of the overwhelming majority of Mexicans, particularly the rural sector, organized labor, and the military. And the Party can legitimately claim credit for the growing, and highly visible, economic development of Mexico.

CONFIDENTIAL



PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1969

Background Paper

Mexican Foreign Relations

Mexican foreign policy has traditionally been based on two principles:

- Non-intervention in the affairs of other countries;
- Defense of its sovereignty from encroachment by the United States.

Until very recently, the implementation of the above policies has meant to Mexico a relatively passive and insular role in world and hemisphere affairs. However, with Mexico's growing prestige and with her expanding economic and commercial interests, her leaders seem now to be beginning to devote energies to increasing Mexican international activities.

-- In 1964, President Diaz Ordaz toured the Central American countries.

-- The Mexicans are very proud of their achievement in staging the 1968 Olympic Games.

-- Mexico has joined the Latin American Free Trade Area.

-- Mexico is playing an important role in certain specialized UN agencies, and in the area of de-nuclearization.

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Issues with the United States center around bilateral and hemispheric questions.

-- The "style" in which U.S.-Mexican relations are conducted is now very cordial. Mexico seeks, and has received, a "special relationship" with the U.S. Numerous Presidential meetings, and other high level contacts, are now an accepted part of Mexico's relations with us.

-- However, it is still most important that the Mexican leadership adopt, at least publicly, an independent posture in dealing with the U.S. (Foreign Secretary Antonio Carrillo Flores, for example, would probably be a serious candidate for the Mexican Presidency were it not for the fact that he has been identified for years as a "close friend of the gringos.")

-- In OAS affairs, the Mexicans frequently utilize their "non-intervention" doctrine to demonstrate their independence of the U.S. Hence, Mexico opposed our action in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and it continues to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba.

CONFIDENTIAL