



Inco - being 17
Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL. 700

PAGE 01 MEXICO 05683 211731Z

SS
ACTION ARA 20

INFO: OCT 01 CIAE 00, DODE 00, PM 05, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, JUB 02, IO 13, SY 03, RSR 01, Z 11
112800

R 211640Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1745

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5683

1. THE WEEK BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS IN MEXICO CONCERNING "OPERATION COOPERATION" IS ONE OF WATCHFUL WAITING ACCOMPANIED BY A BARELY CONCEALED HYPER-SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF MEXICAN OPINION. FOLLOWING THE WASHINGTON JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF OCTOBER 10 THERE WAS A PERIOD OF EUPHORIA WHEN MEXICAN OPINION BELIEVED THAT PROBLEMS ON THE BORDER ARISING FROM US DRUG CONTROL MEASURES WERE TERMINATED. SINCE THEN IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT US OBJECTIVES REMAIN UNMODIFIED. INDEED, FOLLOWING THE REMARKS OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL KLEINDIENST, THERE IS APPREHENSION THAT WE GIVE A HIGHER PRIORITY TO DRUG CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES THAN TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. THIS HAS BEEN THE INTERPRETATION OF SOME WHO HAVE TALKED WITH ME ABOUT OUR PUBLICLY EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON ALONE, IF NECESSARY.

2. AMONG OFFICIALS THERE IS OPTIMISM THAT "OPERATION COOPERATION" CAN BECOME A REALITY. MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES DO NOT KNOW ANY MORE THAN I DO WHAT WILL BE OUR CONCEPT OF "COOPERATION". HOWEVER

THEY HOPE THAT A WORKABLE PROGRAM CAN BE DEVELOPED WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY FOR DRUG SMUGGLERS, PERMIT A NORMAL BORDER TRAFFIC AND COMMERCE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT INFRINGING HONOR OR SOVEREIGNTY. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY TAKE QUITE A BIT OF DOWNT, I AM CERTAIN THAT THE PRINCIPAL MEXICAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED - THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARIES OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL - HAVE THIS AS THEIR OBJECTIVE. I BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL FIND THEM IN A REASONABLE MOOD, ESPECIALLY SINCE ALL HAVE A STRONG DESIRE FOR A CORDIAL AND INDEED SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

①

CONFIDENTIAL.
27

10/21/69



CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05683 211731Z

WITH THE UNITED STATE.

3. OUR DELEGATION NEXT WEEK WILL BE WORKING IN A GOLDFISH BOWL IN LIGHT OF THE INTENSE INTEREST HERE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE PROPOSALS MADE FOR COOPERATION ARE ONES WHICH CAN BE ACCEPTED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND WHICH ACHIEVE THE THREE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH I AM MOST HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN COME TO A SUCCESSFUL END OF THE WEEK IN MEXICO WITH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMMUNIQUE WHICH WILL PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF RECENT MOST HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

4. IF AS I CONSIDER RELATIVELY UNLIKELY, THERE SHOULD BE A CRUMONY OR A BREAKDOWN OF DISCUSSIONS, I BELIEVE THE OUTCOME WOULD BE MOST EXCEEDINGLY UNFORTUNATE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN MEXICO AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA WHERE MEXICO IS HIGHLY REGARDED. U.S. DIFFICULTIES WITH MEXICO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO DISAGREEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR US IN OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO MENTION A COLLAPSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS KEY COUNTRY OF THE HEMISPHERE WHICH IS SO CLOSELY WATCHED BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEE IF U.S. PROTESTATIONS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP CAN BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

27