

*Inter-Message 17 u*

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# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

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ACTION JUS-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-12 IO-13 SY-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
RSC-01 TRSY-11 SS-20 NSC-10 P-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 CCO-00 L-03 RSR-01 /088 W  
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*12/11/69*

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2177

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS, MARIHUANA AND DANGEROUS DRUGS; WORKING  
Goup REPORT NO. 10

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1. IN LAST MINUTE ERUPTION OF THEIR STILL SMOULDERING BITTER-  
NESS ABOUT OPERATION INTERCEPT AND ABSOLUTE UNWILLINGNESS  
EVER TO DO ANYTHING UNDER PRESSURE, REAL OR IMAGINED, FROM  
U.S., MEXICANS TODAY REFUSED TO SIGN JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG)  
REPORT DUE DECEMBER 15. ACCORDING TO HUERTA (CHAIRMAN MEXDEL),  
TRIGGERING THIS POSITION BY MEXICANS WITHIN PAST HOUR WAS AN  
EIGHT-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE IN THIS MORNING'S "EL UNIVERSAL":  
QUOTE NINE MILLION DOLLARS IN ORDER TO MAKE "OPERATION INTER-  
CEPT" PERMANENT. UNQUOTE SUBHEADLINE READS: QUOTE EVEN EXPERT  
DOGS WILL BE USED IN (THE MATTER OF) MARIHUANA UNQUOTE.  
SUPPORTING STORY IS BY UPI, DATELINE WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 10,  
REPORTING ALLEGED TESTIMONY BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURY  
ROSSIDES AND CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER AMBROSE BEFORE HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE IN A SECRET SESSION NOVEMBER 25.  
SAYS THAT THE NINE MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE USED TO EXPAND  
CUSTOMS FORCE BY 300 PLACES AND TO ACQUIRE MORE AIRCRAFT AND  
OTHER EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO RENEW OPERATION INTERCEPT WHICH  
HAD BEEN SUPERSEDED BY OPERATION COOPERATION.

2. REPORT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY AGREED SINCE MONDAY NIGHT AND  
WAS CLEARED BY THREE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CABINET-LEVEL  
OFFICERS (SEE REFTTEL) FOR SIGNATURE ON DECEMBER 10. THERE  
WAS SOME LAST MINUTE HOLDUP YESTERDAY AS PRESUMABLY PRESIDENT

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DIAZ ORDAZ HIMSELF WANTED TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN SEVERAL OF THE REPORT'S KEY RECOMMENDATIONS. FINALLY, AT 9 P.M. LAST NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) HUERTA SAID THAT GREEN LIGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN BY GOM FOR SIGNATURE OF REPORT AT 2:30 P.M. TODAY, AT WHICH TIME HE NOTIFIED KUBISCH THAT SIGNING WOULD HAVE TO BE "DELAYED".

3. KUBISCH EXPLAINED AT LENGTH CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING CUSTOMS BUREAU'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS AND POINTED OUT THAT BANNER HEADLINE IN NEWSPAPER WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY TEXT OF STORY. HOWEVER, HUERTA WOULD NOT BUDGE AND SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE CATEGORICAL. AUTHORIZATION FOR HIM TO SIGN REPORT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT. HE SAID WE COULD RECONSIDER MATTER OF SIGNING AGAIN ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15.

4. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SURMOUNT THIS LATEST OBSTACLE IN OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BROAD COOPERATION FOR MEXICANS IN ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN. TO ASSIST WE COULD USE WHATEVER CLARIFICATION ON NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THAT YOU COULD SUPPLY, INCLUDING ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS YOU COULD AUTHORIZE US TO MAKE TO MEXICANS CONCERNING USG ATTENTIONS ABOUT OPERATION INTERCEPT.  
MCBRIDE

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