



OK per R-M

AID(US) 8-11111

Department of State

XR 03L23 MEX

XR 50211-2MEX

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 676

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00040 01 OF 02 061703Z

51 47

ACTION: ARA-11

INFO: OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

AID-12 L-02 RSR-01 RSC-01 /065 W

067790

P 061630Z JAN 71

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5953

CONFIDENTIAL I A LI SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 040

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL OBSERVATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN POLICE ACTIVITIES

REF: KUBISCH/SMITH (ARA/MEX) TELECON

1. AS INDICATED REF TELECON, NEW MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR A SPECIAL OBSERVATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SELECTED MEXICANS IN POLICE WORK AND CROWD CONTROL. FOLLOWING THIS REQUEST AND SOME FURTHER CONTACT BETWEEN DCM AND EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE WITH GOM OFFICIALS, EMBASSY WAS VISITED YESTERDAY (JANUARY 4) BY COLONEL MANUEL DIAZ ESCOBAR FIGUEROA AND CAPTAIN ROGELIO FLORES BERRONES TO DISCUSS THIS PROGRAM.

2. DIAZ ESCOBAR'S OFFICIAL POSITION IS SUB-DIRECTOR OF "GENERAL SERVICES," DEPARTMENT OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, AND THIS MEETING WAS ARRANGED BY ONE OF TWO NEW FONSEC UNDER SECRETARIES, JOSE GALLASTEGUI, WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY. DIAZ ESCOBAR SAID THAT NEW MAYOR OF FEDERAL DISTRICT HAD ENTRUSTED HIM PERSONALLY TO WORK OUT THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM OF TRAINING AND OBSERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES. ONLY A FELLOW COLONEL, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF THE MEXICO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, KNOWS OF THIS PROJECT WITHIN THE POLICE HIERARCHY HERE IN MEXICO CITY. DIAZ ESCOBAR SAID THAT MAYOR PLANS A

CONFIDENTIAL

28

MEXICO 40, 1-071

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: 110 910012



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00040 01 OF 02 061703Z

GENERAL REORGANIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING OF MEXICO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH FOR THE PRESENT HE IS KEEPING FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULARS. THE SPECIAL GROUP TO BE TRAINED IN THE U.S. IS TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

3. DIAZ ESCOBAR SAID GROUP TO GO TO THE U.S. WOULD CONSIST OF 15-17 YOUNG MEN. GROUP WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE MEXICO CITY OVER THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 30-31 AND BEGIN THEIR TRAINING PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON D. C. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1. THEY WILL HAVE ABOUT 12 WEEKS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM AND INDICATED AN INTEREST IN UP TO SIX WEEKS IN WASHINGTON AND ABOUT TWO WEEKS EACH VISITING METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY, CHICAGO, AND LOS ANGELES. GOM WILL PAY TRAVEL, HOTEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES.

4. DIAZ ESCOBAR SAID THAT GROUP WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT ALL PHASES OF METROPOLITAN POLICE ACTIVITY -- ALONG LINES ENUMERATED IN SMITH/KUBISCH TELECON -- ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED SPECIAL INTEREST IN CROWD CONTROL, DEALING WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, AND RIOTS. THEY WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN TRAINING IN PHYSICAL DEFENSIVE TACTICS AND HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

5. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY INFORMATION, DIAZ ESCOBAR IS A COLONEL IN MEXICAN ARMY, AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IS ALSO CURRENTLY IN CHARGE OF A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS KNOWN AS THE HALCONES. THIS GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING DOWN THE OSTENSIBLE STUDENT RALLY TO CELEBRATE THE ELECTION VICTORY OF CHILEAN PRESIDENT ALLENDE -- A RALLY HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 1970, WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING WAS PLANNED AS AN ANTI-MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RALLY ATTACKING LABOR-UNION SUBORDINATION TO THE GOVERNMENT. HALCONES USED BAMBOO STICKS IN THIS ENDEAVOR, WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE STUDENTS, AND DESCRIBED AS "ARMY-TRAINED THOUGHTS." EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS ORGANIZATION NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 2000 INDIVIDUALS WHO ASSIST GOM IN THE ABOVE MANNER. IT MAY BE SOMETHING OF A

CONFIDENTIAL

28



# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 00040 01 OF 02 061703Z

SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO INFAMOUS PORRAS WHO HAVE BEEN USED AT UNAM AND PREPARATORY SCHOOLS TO FERRET OUT LEFIST STUDENT LEADERS AND DEAL WITH THEM "OUTSIDE THE LAW." PORRAS ARE NOW HIGHLY UNPOPULAR AS THE RESULT OF SOME REPORTED KILLINGS, AND HAVE BEEN LARGELY ABANDONED BY THE AUTHORITIES AS INSTRUMENT WITH OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP.

6. IN DESCRIBING GROUP TO GO TO U.S., DIAZ ESCOBAR INDICATED THAT "FOUR OR FIVE" WOULD BE YOUNG ARMY OFFICERS IN THEIR MID -20'S, THREE WOULD BE 18-19 YEAR OLD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (EMBASSY COMMENT: POSSIBLY GOM "SOURCES" IN MEXICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS), AND 8-10 WOULD BE IN THEIR EARLY 20'S BEING TRAINED FOR "IMPORTANT POSITIONS" (EMBASSY COMMENT: POSSIBLY FOR LATER ASSIGNMENT TO POLICE DEPARTMENT OR POSSIBLY AS SUB-CHIEFS OF HALCONES). GROUP IS ENTIRELY OUTSIDE REGULAR FEDERAL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR AGES WOULD INDICATE THAT THESE MEN MIGHT BE USED TO LEAD AND TRAIN THE HALCONES.  
MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

28

DECLASSIFIED



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 671

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00040 02 OF 02 061656Z

51 47  
ACTION: ARA-11

INFO: OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

AID-12 L-04 RSR-01 RSC-01 /067 W  
..... 067687

P 061630Z JAN 71  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5954

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 040  
LIMDIS

7. ACCORDINGLY, DCM VISITED UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AND HAD FURTHER PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION WITH HIM ABOUT THIS PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM. GALLASTEGUI SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT THIS PROJECT AND REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE HAD FULL BLESSING OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. GALLASTEGUI SAID THAT ECHEVERRIA AND MEXICO CITY MAYOR WERE DISTRESSED AT CORRUPTION IN MEXICO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WERE DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULARS WERE NOT BEING BROUGHT INTO THIS PROGRAM OR EVEN BEING INFORMED ABOUT IT. NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF WAS TRUSTED ARMY COLONEL WHO WOULD BE DRAWING ON GROUP TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES TO ASSIST IN REORGANIZING, MODERNIZING, AND "CLEANING OUT" POLICE DEPARTMENT. GALLASTAGUI REITERATED FONMIN'S REQUEST FOR USG COOPERATION IN THIS PROGRAM.

8. EMBASSY CONSIDERED REQUEST CAREFULLY AND FORESEES SOME RISK TO USG IN ACCEDING TO IT. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WOULD ARISE IF GROUP WERE TRAINED IN U.S. AND RETURNED TO MEXICO TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN HALCONES, DEALING HARSHLY AND PERHAPS EVEN OUTSIDE THE LAW WITH STUDENT LEADERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. EMBASSY IS OBVIOUSLY UNABLE AT THIS POINT TO PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY JUST HOW INDIVIDUALS IN GROUP WILL BE USED AFTER RETURN. THERE EXISTS POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT BECOME

CONFIDENTIAL

38



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00040 02 OF 02 061656Z

ACTIVE IN HALCONES AND, LIKE PORRAS BEFORE THEM, GET BEYOND FULL CONTROL OF GOM. CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM WITHIN MEXICO COULD BE GENERATED AMONG STUDENTS AND VARIOUS OPPONENTS OF GOM -- CRITICISM THAT COULD SPILL OVER TO U.S. IF IT BECAME KNOWN, AS IT PROBABLY WOULD, THAT GROUP WAS U.S. TRAINED.

9. NONETHELESS, SINCE THIS IS FIRST REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NEW ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, A REQUEST GIVEN HIGH IMPORTANCE BY FONMIN RABASA AND REITERATED BY UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD GIVE SOME KIND OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO REQUEST. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE GROUP'S VISIT TO U.S. IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID POTENTIAL HARM OF OFFICIAL "TRAINING" AND KEEP USG ITSELF LARGELY DISASSOCIATED FROM PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, PERHAPS MERE "OBSERVATION" TOURS TO SEVERAL U.S. METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT. THIS WOULD NOT COMPLETELY FORESTALL POTENTIAL PROBLEM BUT WE WOULD BE IN STRONGER POSITION TO DEAL WITH IT IF IT AROSE. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO COPE WITH REQUEST.

10. MOST APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP SEEMS TO US BE A FURTHER MEETING WITH DIAZ ESCOBAR TO DISCUSS CERTAIN DETAILS OF PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON AT SUCH A MEETING AND SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT ENDEAVOR TO SEND A SUITABLE REPRESENTATIVE TO MEXICO CITY WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS TO HELP US IN SUCH DISCUSSION. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE NEED STAY IN MEXICO CITY ONLY ONE OR TWO DAYS. JANUARY 13, 14 OR 15 WOULD BE BEST TIME FOR VISIT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

11. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE, ACTING AID AFFAIRS OFFICER AND CAS.  
MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

*Handwritten mark*



## Department of State

## TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00040 02 OF 02 061656Z

ACTIVE IN HALCONES AND, LIKE PORRAS BEFORE THEM, GET BEYOND FULL CONTROL OF GOM. CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM WITHIN MEXICO COULD BE GENERATED AMONG STUDENTS AND VARIOUS OPPONENTS OF GOM -- CRITICISM THAT COULD SPILL OVER TO U.S. IF IT BECAME KNOWN, AS IT PROBABLY WOULD, THAT GROUP WAS U.S. TRAINED.

9. NONETHELESS, SINCE THIS IS FIRST REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NEW ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, A REQUEST GIVEN HIGH IMPORTANCE BY FONMIN RABASA AND REITERATED BY UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD GIVE SOME KIND OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO REQUEST. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE GROUP'S VISIT TO U.S. IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID POTENTIAL HARM OF OFFICIAL "TRAINING" AND KEEP USG ITSELF LARGELY DISASSOCIATED FROM PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, PERHAPS MERE "OBSERVATION" TOURS TO SEVERAL U.S. METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT. THIS WOULD NOT COMPLETELY FORESTALL POTENTIAL PROBLEM BUT WE WOULD BE IN STRONGER POSITION TO DEAL WITH IT IF IT AROSE. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO COPE WITH REQUEST.

10. MOST APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP SEEMS TO US BE A FURTHER MEETING WITH DIAZ ESCOBAR TO DISCUSS CERTAIN DETAILS OF PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON AT SUCH A MEETING AND SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT ENDEAVOR TO SEND A SUITABLE REPRESENTATIVE TO MEXICO CITY WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS TO HELP US IN SUCH DISCUSSION. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE NEED STAY IN MEXICO CITY ONLY ONE OR TWO DAYS. JANUARY 13, 14 OR 15 WOULD BE BEST TIME FOR VISIT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

11. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE, ACTING AID AFFAIRS OFFICER AND CAS.  
MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

*JH*