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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CU-05 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-02
L-04 NSAF-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-22 USIA-12
RSR-01 AID-28 OPR-02 /124 W

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P 072150Z JUN 71
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 551
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MONTERREY 072

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY PROBLEM

REF: MONTERREY 068 AND 069, MEXICO 3110

1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NUEVO LEON OVER WEEKEND WERE DRAMATIC AND FAST MOVING. ON EVENING OF JUNE 4 UNIVERSITY RECTOR FREDRICO GARZA RESIGNED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER COMMISSION OF EX-RECTORS APPOINTED BY STATE CONGRESS ONLY 24 HOURS EARLIER TO STUDY SITUATION AND DRAFT NEW UNIVERSITY ORGANIC LAW, SUBMITTED THEIR DRAFT. THIS IMMEDIATELY APPROVED IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 5. A FEW HOURS LATER IT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT GOVERNOR ELIZONDO PLANNED RESIGN. HE READ RESIGNATION TO STATE CONGRESS DURING EARLY AFTERNOON. CONGRESS ACCEPTED, AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD APPOINT LUIS M. FARIAS, FEDERAL SENATOR FROM NUEVO LEON, AS GOVERNOR TO REPLACE ELIZONDO. FARIAS SWORN IN DURING EVENING JUNE 5, AND NEXT DAY SIGNED NEW UNIVERSITY ORGANIC LAW.

2. NEW LAW, ANALYSIS OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, GRANTS FULL AND COMPLETE AUTONOMY TO UNIVERSITY. MANY IMPORTANT LOCAL POWER GROUPS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE STUDENT GROUPS ACTIVE IN FIGHT AGAINST OLD LAW AND FAVORING AUTONOMY, FEEL THAT LAW TOO SWEEPING IN ITS EFFECTS. THEY ALSO CONCERNED AT SPEED WITH WHICH LAW DRAFTED, PROPOSED, ENACTED AND SIGNED, WITHOUT APPARENT CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS. CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY ARE OBVIOUSLY SHOCKED AT SUDDEN AND DRASTIC REVERSAL OF THEIR APPARENT "VICTORY" IN UNIVERSITY DISPUTE. THEY FEEL

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THAT PRICE EXACTED BY GOM FOR UNIVERSITY "AUTONOMY" WAS TOO EXTREME. THEY COMMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT RESIGNATION OF RECTOR TREVIHO WAS WRITTEN ON STATIONERY FROM HOLIDAY INN, HOTEL WHERE MINISTER BRAVO AHUJA WAS STAYING, AND IMPLY THAT IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO HIS ORDER. THEY NOTE THAT SPEED WITH WHICH SITUATION SO ABRUPTLY CHANGED INDICATES THAT IT PLANNED BY GOM.

3. THERE NOW CONSIDERABLE FERMENT IN LOCAL POLITICAL CIRCLES, AND RUMORS ARE RIFE OF POSSIBLE FUTURE PROBLEMS. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS BY CENTER AND RIGHT GROUPS OPPOSED TO NEW UNIVERSITY LAW AND TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF WEEKEND. IT WIDELY REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOM ORDERED THAT NO DEMONSTRATIONS BE HELD. THERE ALSO TALK OF POSSIBLE FURTHER RESIGNATIONS OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUT PICTURE HERE IS ALSO UNCLEAR. AT PRESENT, NEW GOVERNOR STAYING AT HOTEL ANCIPA UNDER HEAVY GUARD. ALTHOUGH ALL UNIVERSITY FACULTIES APPARENTLY BACK IN SESSION, MEETING BEING HELD BY STUDENTS THIS MORNING TO STUDY NEW LAW AND DECIDE ON THEIR POSITION. AS SITUATION DEVELOPS, WILL REPORT FURTHER.

ADAMS

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