

32



Department of State

TELEGRAM

POL 23-8 MEX

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NN 969041  
By 87 NARA Date 4-18-02

Reproduced at the National Archives

CONFIDENTIAL 262

PAGE 01 MEXICO 03304 160132Z

90  
ACTION: ARA-20

INFO: OCT-01 AID-28 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08  
L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12  
NIC-01 FBI-01 OPR-02 SY-03 RSR-01 /128 W  
..... 120812

P 160028Z JUN 71  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7767  
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN  
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN  
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN  
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN  
AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN  
AMCONSUL MEXICALI UNN  
AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN  
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN  
AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN  
AMCONSUL VERACRUZ UNN  
AMCONSUL SAN LUIS POTOSI UNN  
AMCONSUL CHIHUAHUA UNN  
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3304

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

REF: MEXICO 3273

1. AT 10:00 THIS MORNING RALLY HELD IN THE ZOCALO ORGANIZED BY THE THREE SECTORS OF THE PRI TO SHOW MASS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. THE AREA WAS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BEGINNING AT 3 A.M. ECHEVERRIA APPEARED ON BALCONY OF NATIONAL PALACE AND IN BRIEF SPEECH SAID HE DOES NOT SEEK THE UNCONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE. THE RIGHT TO DISSENT IS THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY, HE ADDED. SPEAKERS FROM THE THREE SECTORS--POPULAR, LABOR AND CAMPESINO ALSO SPOKE. NATIONAL LEADER OF THE POPULAR SECTOR ESTIMATES ATTENDANCE OF 500,000. AT LEAST SOME

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL  
2/4

MEXICO 3304  
6-16-71

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority MM 964041  
 By 8 NARA Date 4-18-02



Department of State

**TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 03304 160132Z

SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO PERMIT STUDENTS AND WORKERS TO ATTEND. NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS REPORTED SO FAR.

2. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ISSUED ITS SECOND BULLETIN JUNE 14 ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNE 10 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLENCE. THE BULLETIN QUOTED WITNESSES AS SAYING THAT GROUPS OF ARMED STUDENTS WERE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES. IT ALSO QUOTED THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO THE EFFECT THAT NONE OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE TROOPS TOOK PART IN THE EVENTS, THAT THEY ONLY GUARDED CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS AND INSTALLATIONS. POLICE REPORT ALSO QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT POLICE DID NOT FIRE ANY SHOTS. NOWHERE IN BULLETIN ARE "HALCONES" MENTIONED.

3. ECHEVERRIA TOLD GROUP OF JOURNALISTS YESTERDAY THAT MEXICANS MUST ESTABLISH A COMMON DENOMINATOR IN FIGHT "FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF COUNTRY, FOR ITS ADVANCEMENT AND FOR WELL-BEING OF ITS PEOPLE, INDEPENDENTLY OF POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL POSTURES THAT EACH PERSON, AS A CITIZEN, CAN HOLD." HE SAID MEXICO'S SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE A REFLECTION OF THOSE OF REST OF WORLD.

4. STUDENTS AT UNAM WERE MOSTLY BACK IN CLASSES MONDAY AND IN SEVERAL OF FACULTIES STUDENTS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MONTH OF CLASSES TO FINISH SEMESTER SATISFACTORILY. STUDENTS HAVE ALSO FORMED BRIGADES TO INFORM PUBLIC OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED JUNE 10. (THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN AS MONDAY NOON GROUPS OF STUDENTS WERE PASSING OUT LEAFLETS DOWNTOWN.) AT IPN MOST CLASSES WERE BACK IN SESSION MONDAY BUT ATTENDANCE WAS LOW.

5. DISTRICT POLICE SAID ONLY SIX OF 159 ARRESTED JUNE 10 REMAIN IN JAIL. ALL OTHERS WERE RELEASED AFTER "SEVERE WARNING."

6. PAN YOUTH LEADER ALVARO FERNANDEZ DE CEVALLOS SAID MONDAY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EXPLANATION OF SHOCK FORCES (OR LACK THEREOF) "DOES NOT SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH DEMANDS SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF THE HIGH OFFICIALS,..."

CONFIDENTIAL

*Department of State***TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 03304 160132Z

AUTHORS OF THE BLOODSHED." HE SAID CHARGE THAT FIGHTING OCCURRED BETWEEN GROUPS OF STUDENTS IS RIDICULOUS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT YET DISCOUNT POSSIBLE DRAMATIC MOVE BY ECHEVERRIA ACKNOWLEDGING OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY, POSSIBILITY OF WHITEWASH NOW SEEMS EVEN MORE LIKELY. SECOND ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT MOVING RAPIDLY IN THAT DIRECTION. EVERY WITNESS QUOTED IN REPORT BLAMES FIGHTING ON DIFFERENT GROUPS OF STUDENTS, AND "HALCONES" NOT EVEN MENTIONED. APPARENTLY FACT THAT "HALCONES" COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN TWO REPORTED LOCATIONS (REFTEL) MEANS THEY DO NOT EXIST. WE CAN EXPECT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTS TO CONTINUE IN THIS DIRECTION IN ATTEMPT TO WIN PUBLIC SUPPORT, DISCREDIT STUDENTS AND DIMINISH GOVERNMENT ROLE IN REPRESSION OF DEMONSTRATION. AS NOTED REFTEL, PRESS TENDING TO BECOME LESS CRITICAL, ALTHOUGH COVERAGE STILL FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. EL HERALDO CARRIES FERNANDEZ DE CEVALLOS STATEMENT AS WELL AS CRITICAL COMMENT FROM US PRESS IN TUESDAY EDITION. GP-3.  
RIBBLE

CONFIDENTIAL