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FROM : Amembassy MEXICO

SUBJECT : Roundup of Recent Political Developments in Mexico - No. 4, 1971

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

DEC 29 1971

INTERNAL

1. Informe
2. Independence Day Celebrations
3. More Government Resignations
4. Report on June 10 Disturbances
5. Guerrilla Groups, Kidnappings and Robberies
6. Castillo's New Political Movement
7. Labor: Velasquez versus Mendez Arceo
8. Church
9. Recent Elections

EXTERNAL

1. Echeverria Addresses U.N. General Assembly
2. Mexican-Chinese Relations
3. Meetings with Foreign Leaders
4. Rabasa's Meetings with Mexican Ambassadors
5. Salinity - "Legal Talks"
6. Finch Visit

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INTERNALBEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. Echeverria's First Informe In keeping with a Constitutional requirement, President Luis ECHEVERRIA Alvarez delivered the annual "Informe," or state-of-the-nation report, at the opening of Congress on September 1. It was his first and was given considerable advance publicity. The reading required nearly three hours and would have taken even longer if the President had not dropped numerous paragraphs from the prepared text. He was interrupted by applause more than eighty times. As is customary, the Informe was laden with statistics. From our standpoint, the most interesting portions were a generally favorable treatment of US-Mexican relations, specific reference to the training of guerrillas in North Korea and the consequent expulsion last March of five diplomats (but without reference in the Informe to their Soviet nationality), and a firm denunciation of the violence connected with the June 10 student demonstration coupled with a promise of an intensified investigation and a report on the incident. Most press and public comment on the Informe was highly favorable, although there was some complaint that the statistics as usual were grossly misleading and bore no demonstrable relation to reality, and that there were more promises made or reiterated than there were achievements reported. (Mexico 5014)

2. Independence Day Celebrations Festivities including a long parade and a large rally before the presidential palace went off without incident on September 16 marking 161 years of independence amid an atmosphere of considerable uneasiness. Security precautions, including a nationwide military alert, were the most massive ever seen in Mexico. Various guerrillas groups had staged some spectacular and embarrassing bank holdups in the days just preceding Independence Day but were either unwilling or unable to repeat these disruptions during the celebrations.

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