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ACTION ARA 16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7425

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6757

SUBJECT: AUGUST 27 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

REF: EMBTEL 6731

SUMMARY: POSSIBLY LARGEST STUDENT DEMONSTRATION YET WENT OFF PEACEFULLY STARTING 5 PM AUG. 27. ESTIMATED 45 THOUSAND STUDENTS MARCHED CHAPULTEPEC PARK VIA REFORMA TO ZOCALO WHERE OTHERS JOINED MAKING ESTIMATED TOTAL 100,000. MOST VIGOROUS VERBAL ASSAULTS YET ON GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT WITH USUAL EXCORIATION POLICE BRUTALITY, REPRESSION. RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS A DOMINANT THEME. ANTI-AMERICAN SHOUTS AS MARCHERS PASSED EMBASSY NOT DEEMED SERIOUS. DEMONSTRATORS LARGELY DISPERSED 10 PM BUT LAST GROUPS REQUIRED LIMITED POLICE, ARMY ACTION TO LEAVE ZOCALO ARE. NO SERIOUS INJURED REPORTED.

1. AT 4 PM ABOUT HUNDRED UNAM MEDICAL FACULTY STUDENTS DRESSED WHITE WEARING ARM BANDS "COMMISSION OF ORDER" FORMED CORDON BETWEEN EMBASSY AND REFORMA WHICH REMAINED THROUGHOUT MARCH. FIRST MARCHERS APPEARED 5:40 CONTINUED UNTIL 7:35 PM. ORGANIZATION GOOD, DISCIPLINE TIGHT. SOME CONTINGENTS SURROUNDED BY ROPE CARRIED BY MARCHERS ON PERIPHERY.

2. OCCASIONAL ANTI-AMERICAN SHOUTS "YANKEES ASSASSINS," "FIDEL, FIDEL, THE AMERICANS CAN'T GET HIM," "VIETNAM SURE, GIVE THE YANKEES HELL," ETC. DID NOT SEEM SERIOUS SINCE USUALLY ACCOMPANIED BY SMILES FROM SHOUTERS AND BELIEVED OCCURRED ONLY WHEN MARCHERS PASSED EMBASSY

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PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 5 PERCENT OF MARCHERS PASSING EMBASSY SHOUTED REMARKS CRITICAL OF US.

3. MANY PLACARDS WITH DOMINANT THEME OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT, POLICE BRUTALITY, VIOLATION CONSTITUTION AND FREEDOM PRISONERS. CRITICISM PRESIDENT REACHED NEW HEIGHTS SCATHING VULGARITY. SAMPLES: "GDO - SEPTEMBER 1 INFORME - HOW MANY DEAD?", "DEATH TO THE BAD GOVERNMENT OF DIAZ ORDAZ AND HIS ROTTEN CABINET", "BAD GOVERNMENT LASTS AS LONG AS PEOPLE PERMIT," "NOW-FIRE ALL OF GDO CABINET," "PARAFFIN TEST FOR EXTENDED HAND (OF THE PRESIDENT)," "GDO-GORILLA." ONE SIGN SHOWED PRESIDENT CARRYING COPY OF CONSTITUTION IN HIS HAND WHILE ENTERING BATHROOM. OTHER SIGNS CALLED FOR FALL OF FIDEL VELASQUEZ (CTM), OR COMPLAINED SIMPLY OF "HUNGER AND POVERTY." MOST FREQUENT SINGLE THEME WAS FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY DEMETRIO VALLEJO (IMPRISONED 1959).

4. LEAFLETS SAID "PEOPLE HATE DIAZ ORDAZ," REITERATED SIX POINTS DEMANDED OF GOVERNMENT: (A) FREEDOM POLITICAL PRISONERS, (B) FIRING THREE POLICE CHIEFS RESPONSIBLE ALLEGED BRUTALITY, (C) DISBAND RIOT POLICE, (D) REPEAL ARTICLE 145 PENAL CODE (SOCIAL DISSOLUTION), (E) INDEMNITY FAMILIES SLAIN AND INJURED STUDENTS, (F) DEFINITION RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLICE, ARMY AND OTHER AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESSION AND VANDALISM. LEAFLETS ALSO EXHORTED COOPERATION, SUPPORT OF PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY WORKERS.

5. SPEECHES AT ZOCALO CALLED FOR (A) CONTINUING PRESENCE THERE OF STUDENT "GUARD" UNTIL GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATES WITH STUDENTS AND (B) STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING AT ZOCALO 10 AM SEPT. 1, WHICH COINCIDES TIME AND (ALMOST) PLACE ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL "INFORME." THESE DEMANDS SEEMED CALCULATED EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN SERIOUS PROPOSALS. STUDENTS ALSO ENTERED CATHEDRAL, RANG BELLS, TURNED ON LIGHTS PREPARED FOR SEPT. 15 CELEBRATION, IGNITED FIREWORKS STORED FOR SAME OCCASION, RAN RED AND BLACK FLAG UP FLAGPOLE.

6. ABOUT 10 PM GROUP ESTIMATED 200 RETURNED TO EMBASSY WHERE THEY MET FORMIDABLE FORCE ARMORED CARS, SOLDIERS, POLICE. STUDENTS DEPARTED AFTER FEW SHOUTS.

7. ALTHOUGH MOST STUDENTS LONG GONE, POLICE AND ARMY COMPELLED

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DISPERSE FEW REMAINING AT ZOCALO (INCLUDING "STUDENT GUARD" PARA 5 ABOVE) AT 2:35 AM. POLICE AND SOLDIERS MOVED ONLY AFTER REPEATED LOUDSPEAKER WARNINGS TO DISPERSE. FEW BLOWS STRUCK BUT NO SERIOUS INJURIES REPORTED. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS FILM CONFISCATED.

8. PRESS DISAPPROVED CALUMNIOUS COMMENTS PARTICULARLY RE PRESIDENT, DEPLORED BLACK-RED FLAG IN ZOCALO, ACCEPTED OR APPROVED USE POLICE, ARMY TO END DEMONSTRATIONS.

9. CONCLUSION: NEITHER STUDENTS NOR GOVERNMENT WON VICTORY. STUDENTS STILL FAIL INVOLVE WORKERS OR OTHER SECTORS IN DEMONSTRATION. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AND PASSAGE OF TIME NOT WEAKENING STUDENT REVOLVE. STILL NO AGREED TIME, PLACE FOR STUDENT-GOVERNMENT "DIALOGUE."

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