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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 16

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Mexico 7282  
10/1/68

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749

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SUBJ: SITREP SEPTEMBER 30, 1968

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. CITY QUIET FOR PAST 24 HOURS. ONLY INCIDENT WAS LOW KEY "MOTHERS MARCH" OF 2,000-3,000 PERSONS LESS THAN HALF OF WHOM WERE MOTHERS. MARCH PROCEEDED FROM MONUMENT TO MEXICAN MOTHERS DOWN REFORMA TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WHERE SIX SPEECHES WERE HEARD ASKING CNH TO CONTINUE ITS DEMANDS AND CALLED ON DEPUTIES TO RELEASE DETAINED STUDENTS. POLICE DID NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MARCH. SOME DEMONSTRATORS TO RETURN TOMORROW TO PRESS DEMANDS BEFORE CHAMBER.

2. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MAINTAINS UNAM CAMPUS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES WHEN THEY ASK FOR IT. RECTOR BARROS SIERRA MET WITH UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TODAY TO DECIDE NEXT MOVE. CNH STILL INSISTING ON ITS DEMANDS AND SAYS STRIKE CANNOT END UNTIL STUDENT ASSEMBLIES VOTE TO RETURN TO CLASSES. CNH HAS MEETING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 2, IN PLAZA OF THREE CULTURES. GOM HAS NOT INDICATED IF IT WILL PERMIT THE MEETING.

3. ALL MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO MOVE AGAINST STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN PROVINCES WITHOUT CHECKING WITH CENTER. ONE STUDENT KILLED IN POZA RICA, VERACRUZ IN STUDENT-POLICE CONFRONTATION, INCIDENT UNDER INVESTIGATION. FREEMAN

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