

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN 79919

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DIST 20 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI: 27 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

ACQ:

SOURCE:

1. OF THE ESTIMATED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS CONGREGATED IN THE MEXICO CITY ZOCALO ON THE EVENING OF 27 AUGUST 1968, APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND WERE LOCAL STUDENTS, TEN THOUSAND STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY, AND FORTY THOUSAND WORKERS, PEASANTS, INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, ETC., INCLUDING BYSTANDERS. THE ONLY DISORDERLY CONDUCT OBSERVED WAS THE PAINTING, WITH RED PAINT, OF OFFENSIVE SLOGANS ON THE WALLS OF THE NATIONAL PALACE AND THE SHOUTING BY A SMALL GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS "EL VIEJO AL PAREDON" (THE OLD MAN MEANING PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ - TO THE WALL).

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2002

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2. BY THE TIME SPEECH MAKING HAD FINISHED, AT ABOUT 2145 HOURS, ONLY EIGHTY TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS REMAINED. AT ABOUT 2200 HOURS, GROUPS OF STUDENTS BEGAN ARRANGING FOR A "SIT-IN" AT THE ZOCALO UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER (THE DAY OF THE PRES. DEM'S REPORT TO THE NATION) OR UNTIL THE STUDENTS DEMANDS ARE MET. THE STUDENTS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARE DEMANDING A PUBLIC DEBATE AT 1800 HOURS ON 1 SEPTEMBER, STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WERE THE FIRST TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE "SIT-IN", WHICH WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THIRTY TO FORTY STUDENTS

EACH AT THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE ZOCALO. THE STUDENTS HAVE SCHOOL BUSES AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR CHANGES OF SHIFT EVERY SIX HOURS AND TO KEEP THOSE SITTING-IN PROVIDED WITH FOOD.

3. AS OF 2200 HOURS, ARMY TROOPS WERE STILL STATIONED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

4.  DISSEM: STAE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT

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