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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP82409

THE PRESIDENT

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SEPTEMBER 19, 1968

EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS THAT SOME 10,000 TROOPS, INCLUDING ARMORED UNITS, OCCUPIED THE UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO CAMPUS LAST NIGHT.

THE REASON GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS THE ILLEGAL OCCUPANCY OF UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS BY STRIKING STUDENTS.

THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE ACTION TAKEN RESPONDED TO SOME NEW OR THREATENED MOVE BY THE STRIKING STUDENTS OR WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT COULD NO LONGER TEMPORIZE IN VIEW OF THE APPROACHING OLYMPIC GAMES AND THE LOCATION OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT OLYMPIC INSTALLATIONS ON THE CAMPUS.

STUDENTS ARE REPORTED TO BE MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON THEIR REACTION AND PLANS.

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