

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

WH memo covering  
CIA and FBI analyses,  
with back-channel  
PS.

INFORMATION

Saturday - October 5, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Mexican Riots - Extent of Communist Involvement

You asked about the extent to which the Cuban Communists or other foreign groups were involved in the Mexican riots this week.

The CIA analysis attached (Tab 1) concludes that the student demonstrations were sparked by domestic politics, not masterminded by Cubans or Soviets. Their primary role was restricted to supplying some money to student groups.

foreign  
role

CIA believes the weapons employed by the students could have been obtained locally. Although they did not start the trouble, Mexican Communists, Trotskyists, and Castroites all capitalized on the disorders once they began and took active parts.

An FBI report (Tab 3) asserts that a Trotskyist group initiated the sniper fire at the police and army from prepared positions in various apartment buildings, and they were responsible for touching off the bloodshed. This so-called "Olympic Brigade" reportedly obtained automatic weapons from Cuban and Guatemalan extremist organizations and plans acts of sabotage during the Olympic games.

Bruno Pagliani:  
Italian-born  
businessman

*Walt* Rostow

Back channel

P. S. Bruno Pagliani called when he was in Washington for the Bank and Fund meetings. He had talked with President Diaz Ordaz. Diaz Ordaz vows that he will establish law and order and see the Olympics through.

Attachments

- Tab 1 - CIA Memorandum
- Tab 3 - FBI Report

Diaz Ordaz says that the riots were carefully planned. A good many people came into the country. The guns used were new and had their numbers filed off. The Castro and Chinese Communist groups were at the center of the effort. The Soviet Communists had to come along to avoid the charge of being chicken.

DECLASSIFIED

DATE 12/28/88, BY 316

NEW 95-189

BY 28 DATE 3-3-97

*W. J. R.*

~~SECRET~~

CIA MEMO

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 Directorate of Intelligence  
 5 October 1968

SANITIZED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

NY 93-111

By ~~MB~~ NARA, Date 4/4/97

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Addendum to "Mexican Student Crisis,"  
 4 October 1968

SUMMARY

There is no hard evidence that either the Cuban or Soviet embassies in Mexico City masterminded the current disturbances despite repeated allegations to that effect by the Mexican Government. We have unconfirmed reports that they have given moral and possibly some financial assistance, however, and there is evidence that many known Mexican Communists have openly participated in the riots.

1. Despite the participation of many Communist groups in the disorders, ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ has no firm evidence that the Communists instigated the present crisis. As in other countries, the extremists have capitalized on the disorders and members of the Mexican Communist Party (PCM), the Communist Youth (JCM), the Communist-oriented National Democratic Students' Central (CNED), and the Trotskyist and Castroite groups have all participated in varying ways.

2. The PCM has gone on record as endorsing the student demands, but party leaders have privately stated that none of their principal functionaries should become directly involved in the violence. Known Communist students are associated with the National Strike Council and other organizations that have arisen during the disturbances, as are Trotskyists and members of the other Communist groups. The JCM has also instructed representatives to state organizations to participate in any local student activities in support of the Mexico City protests.

~~SECRET~~

1.3(2)(4)(5)

Quality of evidence

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)(5)

[Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)(E)

[Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)

[Redacted]

1.3(a)(5)

Circumstantial evidence

6. The strongest circumstantial evidence that the students have received financial aid during the disturbances is the appearance of extensive ads in Mexico City dailies,

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]  
-2-

1.3(a)(4)(E)



~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)(E)

Alternative explanation

which would cost many thousands of dollars. Funds could easily come from domestic opponents of the Diaz Ordaz government, however, in view of the disgruntlement of some former officials in both party and government who have fallen from favor. The students similarly would have little difficulty in obtaining their weapons stocks from ample domestic sources.

[Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)(E)

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)(E)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~12:47 PM 10-5-68 FJB  
PRIORITYRECEIVED  
WHCADECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NLI 95-122 Appeal

By cb, NARA Date 8-22-96

1968 OCT 5 16 58

TO: THE PRESIDENT 01  
 TO: SECRETARY OF STATE 03  
 TO: DIRECTOR, CIA 01  
 TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 01  
 TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY 01  
 TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 01  
 TO: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ATT.: SECRET SERVICE (PID)  
 TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER)  
 FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PROCOMMUNIST STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO.  
 ALL SOURCES USED HEREIN HAVE FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION  
 IN THE PAST.

ON OCTOBER FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, THE FOLLOWING WAS  
 OBTAINED FROM A SOURCE WHO IS ACTIVE IN TROTSKYIST AFFAIRS.

THE LIGA COMUNISTA ESPARTACO (LCE COMMUNIST SPARTACUS  
 LEAGUE) AND OTHER GROUPS OF THE TROTSKYIST FOURTH INTERNATIONAL  
 MET IN MEXICO CITY DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK. DELEGATIONS  
 FROM VARIOUS STATES WERE PRESENT. THEY FORMED A SINGLE  
 JOINT SHOCK GROUP CALLED THE OLYMPIA BRIGADE WHICH MADE ITS  
 FIRST APPEARANCE OCTOBER TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, AT THE  
 PLAZA OF THREE CULTURES.  
 END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THAT AFTERNOON MEMBERS OF THE OLYMPIA BRIGADE POSITIONED  
 THEMSELVES AS SNIPERS IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS OVERLOOKING THE  
 PLAZA. OTHERS WERE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CHIHUAHUA  
 BUILDING UNDER THE SPEAKERS BALCONY WHICH THEY WERE TO  
 DEFEND.

SOURCE SAID SNIPERS HAD EARLIER BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS  
 TO SHOOT AND KILL GENERAL JOSE HERNANDEZ TOLEDO, IF OBSERVED.  
 HE HAD COMMANDED THE MILITARY FORCES WHICH IN THE RECENT  
 PAST HAVE OCCUPIED THE UNIVERSITIES OF SONORA AND MICHOACAN,  
 THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND VARIOUS SCHOOLS IN MEXICO CITY.

GENERAL HERNANDEZ TOLEDO APPEARED IN THE PLAZA TO  
 ANNOUNCE TO THE STUDENTS THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MARCH  
 FROM THE AREA. THE OLYMPIA BRIGADE OPENED FIRE ON THE  
 GENERAL'S PARTY WOUNDING HIM AND THREE OTHER OFFICERS AND  
 THEN FIRED INTO A GROUP OF SOLDIERS BEHIND THEM, KILLING  
 AT LEAST ONE AND WOUNDING MANY OTHERS. UNFORTUNATELY, AT  
 THE SAME TIME, POLICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR STARTED TO CARRY  
 OUT ARRESTS OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE COUNCIL AND SINCE SOCRATES  
 COMPOS LEMUS WAS ARMED, THEY FIRED WARNING SHOTS TO DETER  
 HIM FROM RESISTING. THE ARMY HEARD SHOTS ON THE THIRD FLOOR  
 AND FIRED INTO IT. IN THE CONFUSION MANY LCE MEMBERS FLED  
 HIGHER INTO THE CHIHUAHUA BUILDING AND WERE GIVEN REFUGE  
 BY TENANTS.

END PAGE TWO

XEROX FROM QUICK COPY



PAGE THREE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SOURCE REPORTED SNIPERS WERE FIRING ON THE TROOPS FROM OTHER BUILDINGS FROM VARIOUS ANGLES.

THE LCE GROUP HID UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY AND LEFT THE CHIHUAHUA BUILDING IN PAIRS WITHOUT BEING ARRESTED. SOURCE LATER DETERMINED THE OLYMPIA BRIGADE LED STUDENTS WHO BURNED BUSES AND STREETCARS ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER TWO.

THE BRIGADE HAS PLANS TO COMMIT ACTS OF SABOTAGE DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES. IT IS MADE UP OF EXTREME RADICAL TROTSKYISTS KNOWN ONLY TO EACH OTHER AND THE LEADERS OF THE TROTSKYIST GROUPS. THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE CONTACT WITH GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS AND CUBAN TROTSKYISTS WHO ARE IN MEXICO ON A "SECRET MISSION." AUTOMATIC ARMS FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED BY THESE LATTER GROUPS.

A SECOND SOURCE HAS ADVISED THAT THE LCE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH FOLLOWS THE PRO-CHINESE COMMUNIST LINE IN MEXICO.

THE SECOND SOURCE ADVISED THAT MEXICO CITY DETECTIVES WHO TOOK REFUGE BEHIND ARMORED CARS DURING THE FIRING, REPORTED THE SOLDIERS INSIDE WERE SMOKING MARIJUANA AND EMERGING LIKE CRAZY MEN AND FIRING WILDLY.  
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A THIRD AND FOURTH SOURCE, BOTH STUDENT ACTIVISTS, ADVISED THEY WERE BRIEFLY HELD BY TROOPS AT THE PLAZA AND REPORTED THE SOLDIERS ACTED DRUGGED, WERE VERY VIOLENT AND WERE LOOTING STORES.

A FIFTH SOURCE WHO IS AN EXPERIENCED SENIOR POLICE OFFICER, REPORTS THE FIRST SOLDIERS TO ARRIVE AT THE PLAZA WERE NOT FIRING THEIR WEAPONS. WHEN GENERAL HERNANDEZ TOLEDO WAS WOUNDED, SOURCE OBSERVED PERSONS FIRING INTO THE PLAZA FROM SURROUNDING BUILDINGS, SOME WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. HE OBSERVED PERSONS FALLING IN GROUPS OF FOUR OR FIVE AS THOUGH HIT BY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THE SOLDIERS NEAR HIM, AT THIS EARLY MOMENT, WERE FIRING INTO THE AIR OR INTO BUILDINGS FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF TRACER ROUNDS FROM ARMORED CARS PINPOINTING SNIPERS. SOURCE BELIEVES MOST EARLY CASUALTIES WERE CAUSED BY SNIPERS. WHEN THE FIRST VIOLENT CLASH ENDED, ABOUT FOUR ZERO TO FIVE ZERO BODIES WERE IN THE PLAZA. BODIES WERE STILL BEING REMOVED FROM BUILDINGS ON OCTOBER THREE. SOURCE ESTIMATED THE TOLL OF DEAD AND MORTALLY WOUNDED COULD APPROACH TWO ZERO ZERO.

GP 7 1

END

PLS HOLD FOR ACKS TKS

ZV

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~