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PAGE 01 STATE 136961 162244Z
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136961

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/07

TAGS: AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL, WHA ASDAR OF JULY 12 AND 15,
2002CLASSIFIED BY JOHN R. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
MEXICAN AFFAIRS, REASON 1.5(D).THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/MEX ASDAR OF
JULY 12, 2002.(U) VIOLENCE FOLLOWS DECISION TO AGAIN ANNUL JUAREZ
ELECTION: FIGHTING BROKE OUT JULY 11 BETWEEN PRI AND PAN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 136961 162244Z

LOYALISTS OUTSIDE THE CIUDAD JUAREZ MAYOR'S OFFICE.
STICKS, PIPES AND CHAIRS ARE SAID TO HAVE FILLED THE AIR.
AN ANTI-RIOT UNIT COMPRISING POLICE AND FIRE UNITS WAS
SENT IN TO STOP THE BRAWL; WATER CANNONS AND TEAR GAS WERE
USED FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN JUAREZ. THE PROXIMATE
CAUSE WERE PAN EFFORTS TO STOP THEIR TRICOLOR RIVALS FROM
SETTING UP TENTS ALONGSIDE THOSE PAN ERECTED FOLLOWING A
JULY 6 STATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL DECISION ANNULLING RESULTS
OF MAY 12 MAYORAL BALLOTING. THE PAN HAD EARLIER SAID IT
WOULD APPEAL THE STATE TRIBUNAL DECISION TO THE FEDERAL

TRIBUNAL; PRI NOW APPEARS INTENT ON FOLLOWING SUIT,

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INASMUCH AS THE STATE RULED IN ITS FAVOR ON ONLY 5 OF 43 COMPLAINTS. IF THE FEDERAL TRIBUNAL FAILS TO REACH A DECISION BY JULY 27 - THE DATE SUPPOSED TWO-TIME WINNER MAYORAL WINNER JESUS DELGADO WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE

- THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL LIKELY NAME A NEW, INTERIM MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL REGULARLY SCHEDULED ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN 2004. (VALDERRAMA, CIUDAD JUAREZ 9282 AND 9125)

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/MEX ASDAR OF JULY 15, 2002.

(C) ECHEVERRIA TESTIFIES: FORMER PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA APPEARED FOR A SECOND TIME JULY 9 BEFORE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IGNACIO CARRILLO TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE "JUEVES DE CORPUS" KILLINGS OF JUNE 10, 1971. ECHEVERRIA REPEATED HIS JULY 2 "SILENT ACT" RESPONSE TO THE 159 QUESTIONS CARRILLO PUT TO HIM, BUT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 136961 162244Z
EXITED THROUGH THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING TO JEERS FROM PROTESTORS AND JOURNALISTS. ECHEVERRIA LATER TOOK QUESTIONS AT HOME FROM THE PRESS. HE NAMED FORMER PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ AS THE INDIVIDUAL "PARTLY" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OCTOBER 1968 TLATELOLCO MASSACRE, AND DF MAYOR ALFONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ FOR THE EVENTS OF "JUEVES DE CORPUS." HE DENIED ANY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WHILE SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT TO DIAZ ORDAZ AND AS PRESIDENT IN HIS OWN RIGHT. MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ IS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY JULY 17 AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY FINGERING ECHEVERRIA. WHILE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CRIMES WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING MEXICO'S DIRTY WAR HAS LIKELY EXPIRED, THE IMAGE OF A FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT BEING HAULED IN TO TESTIFY AND BEING PUBLICLY SCORNFUL HAVE HAD A MARKED EFFECT ON SOCIETY. ECHEVERRIA'S MEETING WITH CARRILLO REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT TACTICAL VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT FOX IN EFFORTS TO END THE IMPUNITY MEXICO'S FORMER PRI RULERS CUSTOMARILY ENJOYED AND INSTITUTIONALIZE THE RULE OF LAW.
(VALDERRAMA, MEXICO CITY 5529)

(U) TEXCOCO AIRPORT STANDOFF ENDS: A FOUR-DAY STANDOFF BETWEEN POLICE AND RESIDENTS OF TEXCOCO AND SAN SALVADOR

ATENCO (STATE OF MEXICO) PROTESTING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MEXICO CITY AIRPORT ON COMMUNAL LAND ENDED TODAY AFTER RESIDENTS AGREED TO RELEASE SOME 15 HOSTAGES (INCLUDING AN EDOMEX DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL) IN EXCHANGE FOR FELLOW

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PROTESTORS IN POLICE CUSTODY. FIGHTING BEGAN JULY 11 WHEN
PROTESTORS WERE BLOCKED BY EDMEX POLICE FROM PHYSICALLY
REACHING THEIR GOAL OF A MEETING WITH GOV. MONTIEL TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 136961 162244Z

DECLARE THEIR CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO THE \$ 2.3 BILLION
AIRPORT PROJECT, AND DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE 150
FEDERAL PREVENTIVE POLICE HAD TO BE CALLED IN.

"EJIDATARIOS" HAVE BEEN PROTESTING SINCE THE OCTOBER 2001
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR A NEW - AND BADLY
NEEDED - AIRPORT. WHILE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES HAVE,
ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SECRETARY CREEL, REACHED AGREEMENT
WITH THE GOM, TEXCOCO AND ATENCO HAVE REFUSED ALL
FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT OFFERS TO DATE. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW
CREEL INTENDS TO SWEETEN THE POT TO RE-ENGAGE PROTESTORS
IN NEGOTIATION. (VALDERRAMA, MEXICO CITY 5528)

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/EPSC ASDAR OF
JULY 15, 2002.

(U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: ENERGY POWERHOUSE OF THE
CARIBBEAN. THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (T&T)
HAS UNVEILED PLANS TO USE EXPANDING ENERGY RESOURCES TO
SUPPLY GAS TO ITS NEIGHBORS. THE COUNTRY HAS BECOME ONE
OF THE WORLD'S MAIN PRODUCERS OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS
THROUGH FDI OF \$3 BILLION OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS; BY
2005, T&T WILL HAVE THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIQUEFIED NATURAL
GAS PLANT (ESTIMATED COST \$1.1 BILLION.) THE PROJECT
WOULD PROVIDE A NEW MARKET FOR THE BIGGEST INVESTORS IN
THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY SECTOR, INCLUDING BRITISH GAS, YPF OF
SPAIN AND BP (THE LATTER RECENTLY BRIEFED WHA ON PLANS TO
TRANSPORT GAS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO OTHER CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES AND THE U.S. EAST COAST). THE FIRST PHASE IS A
GAS PIPELINE RUNNING NORTH FROM T&T THROUGH MARTINIQUE AND
GUADELOUPE TO PUERTO RICO; SPURS WOULD SUPPLY BARBADOS,
ANTIGUA, ST. KITTS AND DOMINICA. OTHERS LIKE THE DR,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 136961 162244Z

HAITI, BAHAMAS AND JAMAICA WOULD BE ADDED AT A LATER
STAGE, EITHER BY PIPELINE OR TANKERS. THERE REPORTEDLY IS
STRONG INTEREST ON THE PART OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN FIRMS IN
THE PROJECT. FEASIBILITY STUDIES INDICATE IT COULD REDUCE

ENERGY COSTS IN THE REGION BY 30%. (ENRIQUEZ/PRESS/ PORT
OF SPAIN 1398).

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/PPC ASDAR OF
JULY 15, 2002.

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(SBU) AFL-CIO REVISITS CUBA POLICY: AT AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS TODAY WE DISCUSSED STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BASIC LABOR RIGHTS IN CUBA WITH SOLIDARITY CENTER (ACILS) DIRECTOR HARRY KAMBERIS, ACILS LA COORDINATOR BEN DAVIS, AFL-CIO LA DIRECTOR STANLEY GACEK, AND MIKE HANCOCK OF USAID. AMONG THE POINTS RAISED:

O IN A MEETING LAST THURSDAY WITH A/S LORNE CRANER, AFL-CIO PRESIDENT SWEENEY PROPOSED THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY DEVELOP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON CUBA AS WELL AS ON CHINA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

O THE CUTC (SINGLE COUNCIL OF CUBAN WORKERS), A MOVEMENT AFFILIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION OF LATIN AMERICA (CLAT), MAY BE THE MORE INDEPENDENT OF THE DISSIDENT UNION GROUPS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN CUBA.

O GACEK AND KAMBERIS DISCOUNTED RUMORS THAT THE AFL-CIO HAD PROMOTED CONTACTS WITH THE OFFICIAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, THE CTC. GACEK ADDED THAT DURING THE ICFTU'S MOST RECENT FACT-FINDING MISSION IN 1998, IT WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 136961 162244Z
ONLY AT AFL-CIO INSISTENCE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION MET WITH DISSIDENT TRADE UNION LEADERS.

O AFL-CIO AND ACILS REPS AGREED IT IS HIGH TIME TO REENGAGE THE ICFTU AND ILO IN PROMOTING A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN CUBA. THEY WELCOMED USG DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE TO RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF THIS ISSUE WITH THE EU AND CANADA, AND NOTED THAT ANY INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE DANES AS EU CHAIR WOULD ALSO HELP. (ROE)

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/BSC ASDAR OF JULY 15, 2002.

(C) PARAGUAY - PRESIDENT DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY. THIS AFTERNOON PRESIDENT GONZALEZ MACCHI SIGNED A "STATE OF EXCEPTION" AIMED TO CONTROL CIVIL DISTURBANCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. CAMPESINO GROUPS IN OVIEDISTA-LED DEMONSTRATIONS JOINED MANY DISCONTENTED CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR JUNE SALARIES. UNACE, THE PRO-OVIEDO POLITICAL WING OF THE COLORADO PARTY, HOPES TO UNSEAT GONZALEZ MACCHI MAKING ROOM FOR LIBERAL VICE PRESIDENT "YOYITO" FRANCO. UNACE BELIEVES FRANCO WILL GIVE OVIEDO AMNESTY PAVING THE WAY FOR HIS RETURN TO PARAGUAY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE WHETHER THIS ROUND OF PROTESTS WILL SPARK ENOUGH POPULAR UNREST TO JEOPARDIZE THE GOVERNMENT OR PUT

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CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AT RISK. THE EMBASSY'S EAC MET THIS AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT SITUATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE SAFETY OR SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN PARAGUAY, THE EMBASSY HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO PERSONNEL OUTSIDE OF ASUNCION NOT TO TRAVEL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 136961 162244Z
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