

ACTION INL-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	CPR-00	DNI-00	DODE-00	ANHR-00
	WHA-00	DS-00	OIGO-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	FRB-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	FMPC-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W

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R 252224Z NOV 08
 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4125
 INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF LABOR WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
 CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
 HQ USNORTHCOM
 DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC
 NSC WASHINGTON DC

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

DECONTROLLED

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 003498

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

DEPARTMENT FOR INL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/2017
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SNAR, KCRM, MX
 SUBJECT: CALDERON CONTINUES ANTI-CORRUPTION SWEEP

REF: A. MEXICO 2371
 B. MEXICO 3321

Classified By: Deputy Political Counselor James Merz.
 Reason: 1.4 (b), (d).

1. (C) Summary. The Calderon administration's anti-corruption initiative Operation Cleanup most recently produced the arrest of the head of Interpol in Mexico and a former Deputy Attorney General/anti-drug czar. While the revelations of narco-infiltration into the upper echelons of law enforcement community have given rise to alarm in public circles, they also help Calderon burnish his credentials as a leader committed to combating organized crime and corruption -- an effect that may come more into view over the longer

Classification Extended on : 10/09/2013 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~
 Declassify on: 11/24/2028

Term. [Redacted]

B1
1.4(D)

End Summary.

Operation Cleanup: Cleaning House

2. (SBU) As part of the Mexican Government's anti-corruption Operation Cleanup (Limpieza), an ongoing investigation into information leaks by law enforcement officials to drug traffickers (see reftels), Rodolfo de la Guardia Garcia, a former top official at AFI, was placed under forty- days arrest-in-place after being taken into custody in October. More recently, the Director for International Police Affairs at the Federal Investigative Agency (AFI) and head of Interpol in Mexico, Ricardo Gutierrez Vargas, was similarly placed under forty -days arrest-in-place last week for his alleged links with drug cartels. Interpol announced November 20 that it sent a team to Mexico to investigate the possibility that its communication systems and databases are not being used for legitimate law enforcement purposes, even while the Mexican government sought to assure Interpol that no sensitive information from the international police agency's system was leaked to cartels. Mexico's Interpol office, or National Central Bureau, is staffed and run by AFI.

3. (SBU) In addition to these apprehensions, Mexico's former head of the Attorney General's (PGR) Office of the Sub-Prosecutor for the Investigation of Organized Crime (SIEDO), Noe Ramirez Mandujano, popularly regarded as Mexico's anti-drug czar, was also arrested last week for his alleged involvement with cartels. Ramirez had served in that position for twenty months until he resigned in July. Attorney General Media Mora announced that information from a member of the Sinaloa cartel accused Ramirez of accepting a 450,000 USD monthly payment from the cartel in exchange for confidential information. Over thirty Mexican government officials have been arrested or dismissed since July in connection with Operation Cleanup.

Good For President Calderon

4. (C) Gutierrez and Ramirez are two of the highest ranking GOM officials uncovered by Operation Cleanup, demonstrating the Calderon administration's ostensible commitment to cleaning house even as investigations encroach on the upper echelons of government. [Redacted]

B1
1.4(D)

[redacted] told Poloff on November 24 that he was "pleasantly surprised" by the arrests of Gutierrez and Ramirez and opined that Calderon is "hitting the right targets" with Operation Cleanup. [redacted] said that this was the strongest anti-corruption message the president has sent so far.

1.4(D)

5. (C) [redacted] expects that the recent round of arrests and investigations probably will lead, at the very least, to more apprehensions of mid-level officials. In the short term, the arrests may undermine public confidence in both Calderon and Mexico's security apparatus as the extent of narco-infiltration in government is made clear. [redacted] suggested that in the long term, however, the housecleaning will help to build Calderon's track record as being truly committed to restoring the integrity of and public faith in

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1.4(D)

Mexico's public security system.

Bad for Garcia Luna?

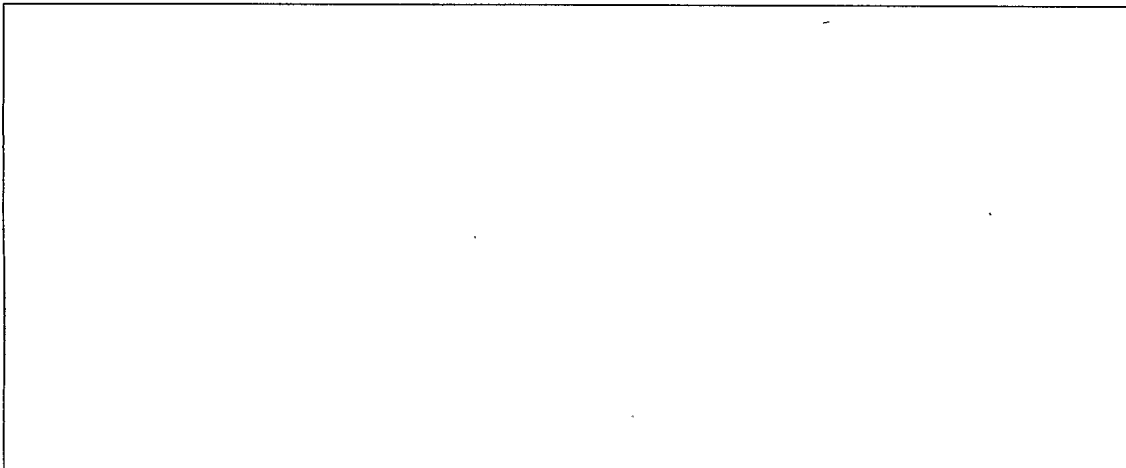
6. (SBU) Mexican media outlets have highlighted that many of the recent investigations have been focused on officials close to Secretary of Public Security (SSP) Garcia Luna, including Gutierrez, Francisco Navarro, chief of SSP's Special Operations, Gerardo Garay Cadena, head of the Federal Preventative Police, and Mario Velarde Martinez, who had served as Garcia Luna's private secretary. While in Peru attending the APEC Summit, Calderon publicly expressed his confidence in Garcia Luna and said that Garcia Luna would not be the Public Security Secretary if the president had any doubts as to his abilities. Calderon exhorted observers not to interpret Operation Cleanup as targeted at any one person.

7. (C) [redacted]

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1.4(D)

While press sources speculate that Calderon may

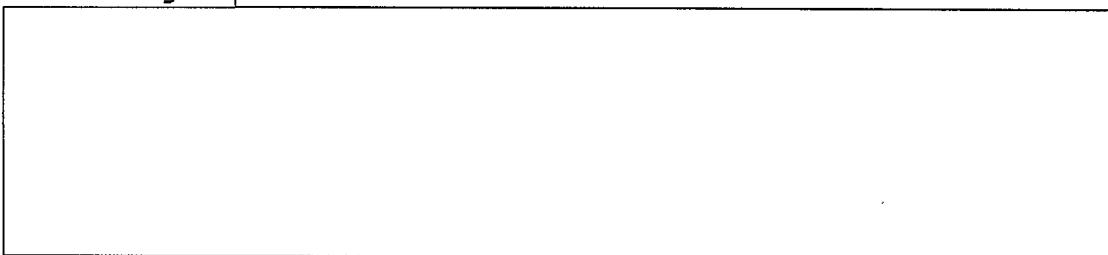
B1
1.4(B)
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Comment

9. (C) Calderon may be stung in the short term by a public
reeling from revelations of narco-infiltration into high
levels of the Mexican security apparatus. In the longer
term, however, such efforts will help him to build a
reputation as being committed to combating organized crime
and the cartels both inside his own house and in the country
writ large.

B1
1.4(D)



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GARZA

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