

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2012-051, document no. 3  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: March 05, 2018

Withheld under statutory authority of the  
Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50  
U.S.C., section 3507)



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**Intelligence Information Cable** IN 2077448  
FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE  
CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

MICRO

STATE/INR JCS/MC(DIA) [redacted]  
SAS NSA TREAS. SDC  
(HARD COPIES TO: NSC/S NFAC WMSITRM OCF)

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~--NNINTEL--NCFORM-- [redacted]

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COUNTRY: MEXICO

SUBJECT: REACTION [redacted] TO  
THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO MEXICO  
14-16 FEBRUARY 1979 [redacted]

[redacted]

1. [redacted] PLEASSED WITH  
PRESIDENT JOSE L O P E Z - P O R T I L L O'S HANDLING OF THE  
MID-FEBRUARY VISIT OF U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY C A R T E R TO MEXICO.  
WITH ALL THE PRE-ARRIVAL CONTRADICTIONARY PUBLICITY IN THE U.S.  
PRESS ABOUT WHAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD DISCUSS, [redacted]

[redacted] EXPECTED PRESIDENT CARTER TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE  
PRESSURE ON LOPEZ-PORTILLO TO MAKE A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON THE  
SALE OF MEXICAN NATURAL GAS TO THE U.S. BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT  
ANY AGREEMENT ON GAS, TRADE OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, THE LEFT  
WING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRI) AND THE  
LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CONSIDERING THE CARTER VISIT A  
SUCCESS FROM THEIR VIEWPOINTS.

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2. WHILE LOPEZ-PORTILLO'S WELCOMING SPEECH AT THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY ON 14 FEBRUARY HAD SOME RATHER STERN PHRASES ABOUT  
THE U.S. NEGLECTING MEXICO AND TREATING MEXICO LESS THAN AN  
EQUAL, [REDACTED] THE SPEECH  
WAS MAINLY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. [REDACTED] LOPEZ-  
PORTILLO FORCEFULLY ARGUED MEXICO'S POLICY AND DID IT AT THE  
EXPENSE OF THE "COLLOSAL OF THE NORTH", WHICH WAS POLITICALLY  
WISE FOR MEXICO'S PRESIDENT. CARTER'S REPLY DID NOT ADDRESS  
LOPEZ-PORTILLO'S REMARKS AND WAS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE KIND OF SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE ROTARY  
CLUB IN IOWA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RELAXING THE AUDIENCE AT THE  
BEGINNING - SAYING THINGS WITH WHICH NO ONE COULD DISAGREE AND,  
MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL, KEEPING THE SPEECH SUPERFICIAL.

3. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ALSO HAD TO BE TOUGH IN HIS REMARKS  
BECAUSE HE HAD TAKEN CONSIDERABLE CRITICIAM FROM WITHIN THE PRI,  
THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT (GOM) AND THE LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES  
FOR ALLOWING POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BREAK SEVERAL CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROVISIONS (WEARING PRIESTLY ROBES, SAYING MASS IN PUBLIC, ETC.)  
DURING HIS LATE JANUARY VISIT. THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT ALLOW  
CRITICS TO ACCUSE HIM OF ALLOWING CARTER TO TRAMPLE MEXICAN  
SENSIBILITIES, PRIDE OR POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POSITIONS. LOPEZ-  
PORTILLO WAS OVERWHELMINGLY PRAISED FOR HIS HANDLING OF THE  
CARTER VISIT AND EVEN FOR ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE TOTAL  
RESULTS OF THE MEETING BY HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER

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CARTER'S DEPARTURE. IN THAT PRESS CONFERENCE HE TOOK PAINS TO  
PORTRAY THE VISIT AS A SUCCESS AND TO COMPLIMENT CARTER, WHICH  
SHOWED ONCE AGAIN THAT LOPEZ-PORTILLO MASTERMINDED THE CARTER  
VISIT AND CALLED THE SHOTS FROM THE TIME CARTER DESCENDED FROM  
AIR FORCE ONE.

4. [REDACTED] PRAISED CARTER FOR HIS COURTESY  
IN HIS SPEECHES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND BEFORE THE  
MEXICAN CONGRESS. [REDACTED] IF HE HAD  
TAKEN A HARD LINE TOWARD MEXICO AND LOPEZ-PORTILLO, THE REACTION  
AGAINST THE U.S. WOULD HAVE BEEN STRONG AND LONG LASTING.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT CARTER HAD TO  
COME TO MEXICO FOR A MINOR SCOLDING AND, HAVING TAKEN IT,  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAN PROGRESS ON THE VERY  
DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF ENERGY, TRADE AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION.)

5. LOPEZ-PORTILLO IS NOW IN A BETTER POLITICAL POSITION  
FROM THE DOMESTIC STANDPOINT FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE U.S.  
AT THE SUMMER 1979 MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HAVING SCOLDED CARTER  
ONCE, LOPEZ-PORTILLO WILL BE CAPABLE OF STANDING UP FOR  
MEXICO'S RIGHTS SHOULD HE CONCLUDE THAT THE SUMMER NEGOTIATIONS  
ARE NOT PROGRESSING WELL. [REDACTED] COMMENT: HAVING OBTAINED  
THE SUPPORT OF THE MEXICAN ELECTORATE, LOPEZ-PORTILLO WILL HAVE  
WHAT AMOUNTS TO A BLANK CHECK IN HIS DEALINGS WITH CARTER IN  
THE SUMMER OF 1979.)

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--

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[Redacted]

ALL PORTIONS

CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.