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Intelligence Information Cable IN 1974166

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REPORT CLASS SECRET--WHINTEL--NOFORN--

25X1, E.O.13526

DIST 10 FEB 79

COUNTRY: MEXICO

SUBJECT:

THE 14-16 FEBRUARY VISIT OF U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER COULD BE A FIASCO

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

THE 14-16 FEBRUARY VISIT OF U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO MEXICO. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR THE VISIT IS NOT EXACTLY PROPITIOUS, AND THE INOPPORTUNE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE COME OUT OF WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN BADLY RECEIVED IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN CERTAIN RESPECTS.

2. [REDACTED]

THE CARTER VISIT COULD BE A FIASCO. [REDACTED] IF THE VISIT IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, MEXICAN/U.S.

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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. 8
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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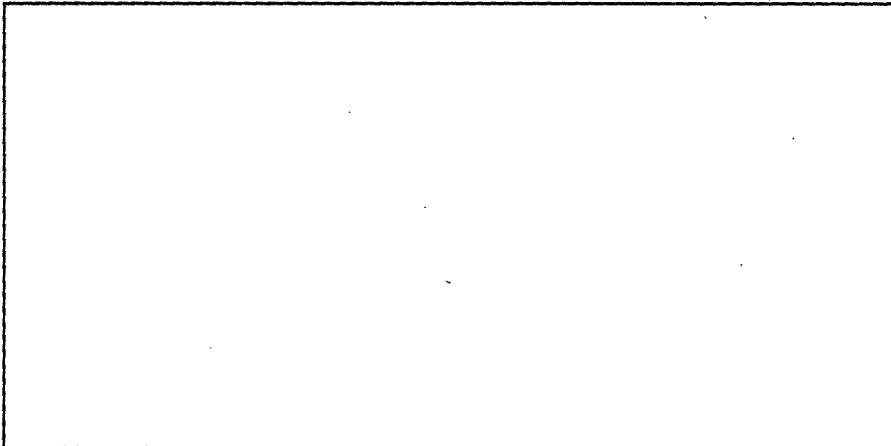
WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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RELATIONS WILL UNDERGO A NEW PHASE OF DETERIORATION.

3. [REDACTED] THE "DIFFICULT" POSITION IN WHICH
 PRESIDENT JOSE L O P E Z - P O R T I L L O NOW FINDS HIMSELF.
 EVER SINCE THE RECENT VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, LOPEZ-PORTILLO
 HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE ATTACK FROM WITHIN THE GOM AND THE
 INSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRI) FOR HAVING "VIOLATED"
 THE CONSTITUTION BY ALLOWING THE POPE'S VISIT. THE GOM, OF
 COURSE, WAS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THE
 POPE'S VISIT; HOWEVER, BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE VISIT,
 LOPEZ-PORTILLO HAS BEEN ON THE DEFENSIVE AND, ON SEVERAL
 OCCASIONS, HAS MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN EFFORTS TO CLARIFY
 THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE GOM. [REDACTED] AS
 A RESULT OF THE PAPAL VISIT, CHURCH-STATE EQUILIBRIUM HAS SUFFERED
 CONSIDERABLE REVERSES.



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[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] IT IS A WELL ESTABLISHED FACT THAT THE GOM NEEDS TO SELL ITS EXCESS NATURAL GAS TO THE U.S. IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY, IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR THE PRESTIGE OF LOPEZ-PORTILLO. AT THIS POINT, AN AGREEMENT ON GAS IS REALLY NOT CRITICAL IN THE ECONOMIC SENSE, BUT IT WILL BECOME SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A GAS AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, IS ESSENTIAL FOR LOPEZ-PORTILLO FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT - TO WARD OFF CRITICISM WITHIN THE CABINET AND TO ENSURE THAT HE HAS A FREE HAND TO CONTINUE HIS ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL POLICIES. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A GAS AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. WOULD BE A HARD POLITICAL BLOW FOR THE PRESIDENT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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