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(MEXICO)
25-29 AUGUST 1980

NATIONAL POLICY AND COMMAND ORGANIZATION BRANCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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1. (U) The following background papers are provided as information to the Chief of Naval Personnel for his use at the TENTH Inter-American Naval Conference in Quito, Ecuador.

**BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (S/NI FORM) .................. TAB A**

- Admiral Ricardo CHAZARO Lara, Secretary of the Navy . TAB 1
- Vice Admiral Hector ELIAS Robles, Chief, Navy General Staff ........................................... TAB 2
- Captain Felix Jaime PEREZ Elias, Chief, Second Section (Intelligence) ......................... TAB 3
- Admiral Miquel Angel GOMEZ Ortega, Commander of the Navy ..................................... TAB 4

**NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY - MEXICO (U) .................. TAB B**

- The eligibility of Mexico to receive classified U.S. military information under the permissive limits of the National Disclosure Policy is set forth at the TAB.

**POLITICAL-MILITARY SUMMARY - MEXICO (U) .................. TAB C**

- Mexico is one of the most developed countries in Latin America, and has provided a secure and stable southern U.S. flank since World War II.
- The U.S. has vital security interests in Mexico. These interests are based on Mexico's mineral resources as well as the Pacific and Gulf coast lines that flank the important SLOCs.
- Although Mexico has the largest naval force in Central America, it is considered incapable of conducting sustained operations beyond Mexico's territorial waters.

**FMS FOR MEXICO (U) .................................................. TAB D**

- The Security Assistance Program with Mexico has been limited in the past. It is anticipated that FMS activities will increase when Mexico acquires more ships from the U.S. during FY-81.
MEXICAN NAVY - U.S. NAVY COOPERATION (S) .......................... TAB E

- A summary of Mexican Navy - U.S. Navy cooperation is located at the TAB.

JOINT MEXICAN-UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMISSION (S) ........... TAB F

- Constituted on 27 Feb 1942 by Presidents of Mexico and U.S.

- Formal meetings have been temporarily suspended (at the Mexican request) due to the inability of U.S. and Mexico to agree on the revision of MEXUS 1001 (a joint Mexico-U.S. Emergency Defense Plan approved in 1955).

- Informal liaison continues by means by annual working luncheons.

PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) WITH THE MEXICAN NAVY (S) .................. TAB G

MEXICO'S LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) POSITION (S) .......................... TAB H

- Mexico's LOS position stresses coastal state control over broad ocean areas and international control of the deep seabed.

NAVAL SUMMARY - MEXICO (S) .......................... TAB I

- The Mexican Navy is primarily a coastal patrol force with a very limited combat capability.

- The bulk of the naval inventory consists of WW II vintage ex-U.S. ships.

U.S. NAVY - MEXICAN NAVY INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION (S) .... TAB J

- No exchanges of naval intelligence are made at this time. The Mexican Navy showed no interest in having the US DNI visit Mexico during his 1980 Latin America trip. Mexico was deleted from his itinerary.

POLITICAL-ECONOMIC SUMMARY MEXICO (S/NOTFOR) .................. TAB K

- The political-economic summary of Mexico is located at the TAB.
MILITARY SUMMARY - MEXICO (S/NOTFORN) .................................. TAB L

- Military forces are able to maintain internal security and control any foreseeable insurgency threat, but possess little conventional combat capability.

U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN MEXICO .................................. TAB M

- U.S. has vital security interests in Mexico.
- U.S. NPW have visited Mexican Ports on three occasions, in 1967, and 1968.
- Additional requests for visits have been refused with the principal reason for disapproval were GOM concerns over safety and liability in event of a nuclear reactor accident.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Express interest in resuming NPW visits to Mexico beginning with USS MENDEL RIVERS in Veracruz 1-4 Oct 80.
- Emphasize that U.S. NPW visits would be made on the basics of our safety assurances (Standard Statement), liability assurances, and unprecedented NPW safety record.

NPW VISITS TO MEXICAN PORTS .................................. TAB N

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS OF WATERS OF THE YUCATAN, MEXICO (U) TAB O

- DMA is planning a hydrographic survey of the Yucatan Channel and the adjacent part of Compeche Bank within Mexico territorial waters to be conducted through resources of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO).
- Request for country clearance has been staffed in DOD for action by the Department of State.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Recommend that participation in NAVOCEANO survey activities by Mexico be encouraged. U.S. would welcome.

U.S. BIOGRAPHY .................................. TAB P

- Julian NAVA , U.S. Ambassador to Mexico
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

(U) NAME: Admiral Ricardo Chazaro (CHA-ZAH-ROW) Lara, Navy.

(U) POSITION: Secretary of the Navy, since 1 December 1976.

(DIA) SIGNIFICANCE:

(DIA) POLITICS:

(DIA) PERSONAL DATA:

dark brown hair, brown eyes, wear
Admiral Ricardo Chazarro Lira
June 1980

He speaks some English, and is a member of the Naval Academy Association. Admiral Chazarro holds the following decorations: Grand Cross for Naval Merit (Degree of Commander) (Spain), Legion of Honor (Mexico), Service Medals (First through Fifth Class) (Mexico), Naval Merit (Mexico), World War Two Naval Operations Medal (Mexico).

CAREER:
1937-1942
- Midshipman, Naval Academy. Commissioned, Probationary Ensign, 1 September 1942.
1943
- Promoted to Ensign, 16 May 1943.
?  
- Assigned as an engineer aboard several navy ships.
1946
- Promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade), 20 November 1946.
1949
- Promoted to Lieutenant, 20 November 1949.
?  
- Instructor, Naval Academy, Veracruz.
1950
- Chief Engineer, Patrol Escort Barranda, from 16 January 1950.
1952
- Promoted to Lieutenant Commander, 20 November 1952.
?  
- Chief, Specialization and Marine Section.
?  
- Chief, Dry Dock, Salina Cruz, State of Oaxaca.
1956
- Promoted to Commander, 20 November.
?  
- Aide to President.
1961
- Promoted to Captain, 20 November 1961.
1962-1965
- Director, Navy Dredging Service. Promoted to Rear Admiral, 20 November 1964.
?  
- Pacific Engineer Inspector.
?  
- Assigned to the Office of Marine Engineering, Mexicans (FEMEX).
1970-1976

  Promoted to Admiral, 1 June 1976.

1976

- Secretary of the Navy, from 1 December 1976.

1978

- Official visit to Spain, May 1978.

1979-Present
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Vice Admiral Hector ELIAS Robles
June 1980

(U) NAME: Vice Admiral Hector Elias (EE-11E-65), Robles, Navy.

(U) POSITION: Chief, Navy General Staff, since August 1979.

(SIGNIFICANT) SIGNIFICANCE: Admiral Elias' long Naval career has included staff assignments, attendance at Mexico's top naval institutions of learning, commanding officer of various ships, and Commander of the 12th Naval Zone (Acapulco), his previous position. He served on the commission to revise Mexican Navy legislation, and was the coordinator of the National Census.

Admiral Elias' date of rank is 20 November 1976.

(U) POLITICS: Admiral Elias supports and is loyal to the ruling government.

(U) PERSONAL DATA: Born on [redacted] Admiral Elias is a Caucasian, of stocky build (5'6" or 1.68 m; 170 lbs or 73 kg) and erect posture, with brown eyes and thinning gray hair.

(U) CAREER:

1945 - Graduated, the Naval Academy.
1945-1949 - Ensign
1949-1952 - Lieutenant (Junior Grade)
1952-1956 - Lieutenant Commander
1961-1966 - Commander
1966-1971 - Captain
1971-1976  - Rear Admiral
1976      - Vice Admiral
1979      - Chief, Navy General Staff, since 1 August.

PREPARED BY: [Redacted]

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Reviewed by DIA/AA DRMD
Date: JAN 05 2018

MEXICO
Vice Admial Hector ELIAS Robles
June 1980

DIA (b)(3) 10 USC 424

CONFIDENTIAL
(U) NAME: Captain Felix Jaime Perez y Elias (Perez), Navy.

(U) POSITION: Chief, Second Section (Intelligence), Navy General Staff, since 6 June 1978.

(C/NOFOR) SIGNIFICANCE: Captain Perez is an officer of above average intelligence. He is deliberate in action, competitive, and is considered to be a man of principles. Widely respected for his competence, he nevertheless is faulted for lacking sea experience. His successful career is attributed more to his perseverance and competence than to his many friends and relatives in the Navy. He wields considerable influence within the Navy because of his present position as Chief of Naval Intelligence.

(C/NOFOR) POLITICS: Captain Perez is believed to have a positive attitude toward the United States, or at least to be neutral. He has made no disparaging remarks, but is quick to defend Mexico's sovereignty in questions of international law. He is not affiliated with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Many of his friends occupy important positions in government.

(C/NOFOR) PERSONAL DATA: Captain Perez was born on 18 January 1932 in Mexico City. He is a Caucasian of medium build (5'7" or 1.70 m; 150 lbs or 68 kg), and a slightly stooped posture. He has brown eyes (wears glasses) and black hair. Perez has taken courses at the, Matias Romero Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Relations; studied economics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and foreign trade matters at the Institute of Foreign Trade. Perez has a good command of the English language and may speak some French and German. He is practicing Roman Catholic.

Captain Perez holds Mexico's Medal of Perseverance, Third Class, Fourth Class, and Fifth Class. He is married to the former, Maria Teresa Angulo. She is Mestiza, a Mexican national and a practicing Roman Catholic. They have three children: Maria del Socio (f), born about 1957; Maria Teresa (f), born about 1961; Juan Carlos (m), born about 1968.

(U) CAREER: Captain Perez is a graduate of the Naval Academy Class of 1954. For the next several years he followed the normal path of young naval officers serving on various assignments aboard training ships, including First Officer and Commander Officer. Subsequent assignments include tours as: Assistant Naval Attaché to the United Kingdom, France, and Germany; Commanding Officer of the Naval Sector in Puerto Vallarta; Subdirector and Director of the Naval
Academy; Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer of the Naval Forces in the Gulf of Mexico; Chief, Third Section (Operations) and Fifth Section (Education), Navy General Staff.

(U) CAREER:

1949 - Midshipman, the Naval Academy.
1954 - Graduated the Naval Academy.
1956 - Held rank of Ensign.
1959 - Held rank of Lieutenant (junior grade).
1962 - Held rank of Lieutenant.
1965 - Held rank of Lieutenant Commander.
1970 - Held rank of Commander.
1971 - Travel, Belgium, unknown conference.
1971-1973 - Assistant Naval Attaché, United Kingdom.
1975 - Held rank of Captain.
1976 - Graduate of Center for Higher Naval Studies.
1978-Present - Chief, Second Section (Intelligence), Navy General Staff, since 8 June 1978.
PAGE DETERMINED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
Reviewed by DON/AA DRMD
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: JAN 05 2018
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Admiral Miguel Angel GOMEZ Ortega
MEXICO
June 1980

(U) NAME: Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega (COH-mes), Navy.

(U) POSITION: Commander of the Navy, since 29 December 1976.

(Effective) SIGNIFICANCE: As Commander of the Mexican Navy, Gomez manages the operational aspects of the Mexican Navy. He is a protege and confidant of the Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Ricardo Chazarro Lara.

At present, the Mexican Navy has degenerated to one of its lowest points since the Great Revolution (1910-1920).

Admiral Gomez lacks any significant sea duty.

Admiral Gomez is a graduate of the United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island (1962-1963), and the Inter-American Defense College, Washington, DC (1964-1965). In grave need of seaworthy units to replace his aging fleet,

Admiral Gomez is anti-Communist and anti-leftist. He is supportive of Mexico’s philosophy of maintaining an independent posture.

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Admiral Gomez is a graduate of the United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island (1962-1963), and the Inter-American Defense College, Washington, DC (1964-1965). In grave need of seaworthy units to replace his aging fleet,
A Roman Catholic with a fair to good English speaking capability, he is the recipient of the Order of Merit from the Government of Israel; the Mexican Naval Merit Medal, Naval War Operations 1942-1945 Medal (2d Class), Perseverancia Medal (30 years service).

(C) CAREER:

1937-1942 - Cadet, Naval Academy, Veracruz. Visited Chile on training cruise, 1940. Commissioned Midshipman, and assigned to patrol escort Guanajuato, 10 September 1942.

1943 - Assigned to patrol escort Queretaro, from 16 January. Promoted to Ensign, 16 March. Attended Pacific Naval School, Mazatlan, to take unspecified examinations, April-May.

1943 - Assigned to transport Durango with concurrent promotion to Ensign, 16 May. Executive Officer on submarine chaser GC-23, 1 August-October; on patrol escort Queretaro, from 16 October; Progresso, from June.

1944 - Executive Officer on gunboat Acapulco, from 16 September.

1945 - Executive Officer (April-October) and Commander (from October) submarine chaser GC-12.

1946 - Duty on auxiliary ship Orizaba, from 16 March. Duty on submarine chaser GC-28, from July.

1946 - Instructor, Naval Academy, with concurrent promotion to Lieutenant (junior grade), 20 November.

1947 - Commander, gunboat Veracruz, from January. Commander, transport Mazatlan, from June. Assigned as Representative of the Secretary of Navy on training ship Marmex, from August.

1947 - Commander, transport Mazatlan, from December.

1948 - Assigned to Navy Staff, January-May; on official business in Seattle, Washington (2 months).

1948 - Aide to the Subsecretary of the Navy, from November.
Admiral Miguel Angel Gómez Ortega
June 1980

1950-?  - Aide to the Secretary of the Navy, from December.


1957-1959  - Assigned to the 8th Naval Zone and, concurrently, member of Inspector General's Staff, January 1957-February 1959.


1962  - Assigned to Naval Headquarters (awaiting orders), from February.

1962  - Student, Antisubmarine Warfare Orientation Course for Senior Foreign Officers, United States Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare School, San Diego, California, April-June.


1965  - Chief, 6th Section (Plans), Navy General Staff, July-December.


MEXICO

Admiral Miguel Angel GOMEZ Ortega

June 1980

1971-1976

- Chief of Navy General Staff, from 20 January 1971.
- Attended the 2d International Seapower Symposium,
  United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode
  Island, 1-6 November 1971; attended 3d Interna-
  tional Maritime Symposium, Newport, Rhode Island,
  October 1973. Promoted to Vice Admiral, 20 November
  1972; to Admiral, 1 June 1976.

1976-Present

- Commander of the Navy, from 29 December 1976.
- Official visits to Spain, 15-18 January 1978; to
  Italy, 19-22 January 1978; to Germany,
  23-26 January 1978; to Denmark, 27-29 January 1978; to
  France, 30 January-1 February 1978; to England,
  2-4 February 1978; to Korea, August 1979.

PREPARED BY: [Redacted]

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Date: 1 JAN 0 5 2018
Political/Military Summary - Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Lopes Portillo inaugurated in 1976 for a 6 year term.

- Mexico enjoys a "special relationship" with the U.S. based on proximity.
  -- Long common frontier, large-scale migration (legal and extra-legal), intensity of trade and investment, Mexico's immense hydrocarbon resources, and growing influence of Mexican-Spanish culture within the United States make "special relationship" unavoidable.

- U.S. has vital security interests in Mexico.
  -- Geographic prominence.
    -- Since WWII, Mexico has provided a secure and stable southern U.S. flank.
    -- 2,000 miles of virtually undefended border between U.S. and Mexico.
    -- Coastlines on Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico flank important SLOCs.
    -- Located only 110 miles from Cuba.

- Vital to U.S. that bases, facilities, etc., in Mexico be denied to potentially hostile powers.

- Mexico one of most developed countries in LATAM.
  -- Good highway system, extensive railway and aviation networks.

- Source of strategically important resources.
  -- U.S. imports 75-80% of Mexican oil exports.
  -- Continued discovery and development of extensive petroleum/natural gas reserves.
  -- Source of lead, zinc, sulfur and silver.

- Largest naval force in Central America.
  -- Many ships obsolete.
-- Considered incapable of conducting sustained operations beyond Mexico's territorial waters.

- On 7 July 1980, the Mexican Navy arrested two U.S. tuna fishing boats for violating Mexican fishing laws.

-- In announcing the arrest, SECNAV, Admiral Ricardo Chazaro Lara, noted that prior to 7 July violators were simply asked to leave Mexican waters.

-- President Portillo made the following statements regarding the arrest:

"We are simply exercising our right in the context of the international law regime to which we adhere and we would hope that international laws would be complied with."

-- When asked whether this situation would do violence to U.S.-Mexican bilateral relations, the president said, "We are sure right and reason will prevail."

**DISCUSSION**

- Mexico is a member of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Defense Board and the Joint Mexican-U.S. Defense Commission. Mexico is a signatory of the Rio Treaty and the treaty for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America.

-- Friendly toward the United States bilaterally but aggressively nationalistic and independent in foreign policy orientation.

-- Never broke relations with Cuba.

-- Does not participate in any combined military exercises.

- Mexico also is a member of the Latin American Free Trade Association.

**RECOMMENDATION (U)**

- Provided for information.
SUBJECT

FMS for Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS

The Security Assistance program with Mexico has been limited in the past. It is anticipated that FMS activities will increase when Mexico acquires more ships from the United States during FY 81.

DISCUSSION

Following is a summary of the major defense items acquired by Mexico under FMS:

- T-34 Trainer Aircraft: 3
- HU-16 Utility Aircraft: 8
- TH-13 Helicopters: 5
- Destroyer Escort: 1
- Floating Drydock: 1
- Landing Ship Tank: 2
- Destroyer: 2
- Minesweepers: 40
- Transports: 15

Pending enactment of enabling legislation Mexico will receive an LST landing ship and a hydrographic survey ship early in 1981. Both ships are presently on inactive status and will require rehabilitation. The hydrographic ship will require special equipment outfitting prior to becoming operational. The Mexican Navy has not yet decided where the reactivations will take place.

Mexico requested Gearing Class DD's. The notification is before Congress for transfer of two DD's. Upon approval, it is anticipated that these ships will be transferred late FY 81. This would allow sufficient time to effect necessary crew training and would permit "hot" transfers, thus facilitating a smooth transfer and avoiding costs and complications inherent to reactivations.

Mexico has solicited bids for a new-construction patrol vessel of the corvette or frigate class. Several European companies have responded. At least one U.S. company, Ingalls Shipbuilding Company, has also made a proposal for this ship.

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.
FACT SHEET

Subject: NRF Destroyer SITREP

Background:

- At Tab A is the planned retirement dates and recipient countries for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) of the remaining FRAM Destroyers.
- Navy had scheduled retirement of 14 NRF Destroyers in FY 81.
- The McCAMP and FISKE have been transferred in June 1980 to Turkey. The remaining ships are scheduled for retirement and transfer in FY 81 or later.
- On 16 June Navy submitted notification to Congress of the intended FY 81 transfers. These documents must await 30 days of Congressional session before an offer for sale or lease may be made to a foreign government and assuming Congress does not voice any objections during those 30 days.
- Due to the limited number of days which Congress will be in session this summer, the 30 day notification will not be satisfied until about 20 August.
- The HAC Report on the FY 80 Supplement requested "...that no additional NRF Destroyers be offered for sale or lease until the Congress has had an opportunity to review and question the GAO Report which is nearing completion".
- In order to preclude a misunderstanding, the SECNAV signed a letter (Tab B) on 13 June 1980 to Chairman Addabbo clarifying our actions.
- ASN(FM) met with Mr. Chappel (HAC member) on 17 June and made the same points.
- The GAO draft report has been reviewed and commented on though weak in its rationale its essential conclusions are in accordance with Navy interests (i.e. Congress should review the direction to overhaul two NRF Destroyers in FY 80 and should reevaluate retention of these Destroyers).
- Appropriate foreign Navies have been advised of the Congressional notifications and the ships proposed for transfer.
FY 80 Overhauls:

- Congress directed Navy to overhaul two FRAM Destroyers (ELLISON and SOUTHERLAND) in FY 80.
- Navy offered up $30 Million of the $34 Million appropriated as offsets for the FY 80 Supplement.
- HAC favors rejection of this offset. SAC supports Navy's position.
- SAC will hold a firm line regarding these overhauls and offer HAC a quid of purchase of two C-9s and additional funds for reserve travel and per diem.

Destroyer Transfers to Mexico:

- In FY 79 transfer of LAWE to Mexico was deferred due to Congressional direction.
- WILLIAM C. LAWE is not scheduled for retirement and is no longer programmed for transfer.
- Congress was notified on 16 June of the proposed "as is, where is" sale to Mexico of USS VOGELGESANG (DD 862) and USS STEINAKER (DD 863) both presently scheduled to retire from active service in September 1981.
- VOGELGESANG started ROH on 10 Jan 79 with planned completion date of 10 July 1979. As a result of unforeseen problems which arose during the overhaul, the VOGELGESANG did not complete its overhaul until 20 February 1980.
- The overhaul was one of reduced scope which provided only for work required to keep her safe and operable until the scheduled September 1981 retirement date.
- The plan for decommissioning was based upon obtaining a reasonable period of operation after completion of overhaul which will be about 19 months.
- STEINAKER last completed overhaul in November 1979 and her scheduled retirement date is about 22 months after overhaul.
- Mexico was advised by message of the Congressional notifications and further that --
  - Any arrangements for transfer are subject to reversal by Congressional action on the FY 1981 Defense Appropriations Act for passage in late September 1980.
- The ships will require overhaul for continued reliable operations.

- Hot ship transfers are envisioned.

- FMS price is expected to be approximately $300 thousand for each ship plus associated transfer costs and administrative charges.

- If the transfer takes place earlier than October 1981, pro-rated costs of overhauls completed in November 1979 and February 1980 will also be assessed.

- There has been some Congressional interest in a February 1980 newspaper article from the Norfolk Virginia Pilot which indicated that the VOGELGESANG had just completed a $10 million overhaul and was now slated for retirement in FY 1981.

- Aside from the normal Congressional objections to the NRF Destroyer retirements there could also be opposition during the FY 1981 budget review to decommissioning ships upon which we have recently spent substantial overhaul dollars.

- It is emphasized that we can make no official offer of sale or lease of any of these ships at this time.

- There is a reasonable chance that the Senate will prevail and we will be able to retain the Destroyers as scheduled in Tab A.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>MRO Complete</th>
<th>Retiring Date</th>
<th>Transfer To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. L. Mc Coo (DD 440)</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>5/77</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. Lowe (DD 763)</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>11/70 (est)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kean (DD 734)</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>4/30 (est)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enders (DD 739)</td>
<td>Long Beach, CA</td>
<td>5/78</td>
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**Notes:**
- Balance of 2 from DDs already retired
- Plus offers of up to 4 already retired

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**DECLASSIFIED IN FULL**

Authority: EO 13526

Reviewed by DON/AA DRMD

Date: JAN 05 2016
Mr. Chairman,

In compliance with Section 7307 of title 10, U.S. Code, the Navy is submitting notification to the House and Senate Defense Committees of intent to transfer to several foreign nations the Naval Reserve Force destroyers scheduled to retire in fiscal year 1981. Copies of the notification letters are being provided to both Appropriations Committees.

We are not attempting to circumvent the request of the Appropriations Committee contained in the report (No. 96-4) on the FY 80 Supplemental that no additional Naval Reserve Force destroyers be offered for sale or lease until Congress has had an opportunity to review and question a General Accounting Office report on this issue. The destroyers cannot be made available until satisfactory completion of the statutory notification period (30 days of continuous session for submission). The notification is being made now so that upon completion of the required 30 days of continuous session, sufficient time will remain prior to the ships' retirement to plan and to permit orderly offers and eventually transfers on the scheduled retirement dates. Because Congress scheduled to recess for over two weeks during July, completion of the notification period is not expected until early August. That leaves very little time for a foreign buyer to process acceptance of an offer and to arrange for transfer of a ship prior to the scheduled October retirement date of these ships. I am sure you understand that a ship transfer is a rather complex undertaking which involves considerable planning and logistic effort.

The retirement of these destroyers has been an issue more than a year. During that time, the Navy has consistently offered compelling testimony that supports the early retirement of these obsolete ships. The GAO findings, which have already been circulated in draft form, support the Navy view that modernization of these ships would not be economical, even if it were feasible. The Chief of Naval Operations has testified repeatedly about his sensitivity to the needs and importance of the Naval Reserve, and in fact we have taken
Regardless of the relative merits of opposing viewpoints in this matter, an early resolution of the NAF destroyer issue will permit us to manage the related money, people, and facilities in an orderly manner. I know you share this interest, and will appreciate that we must proceed now with submission of the destroyer transfer notifications while abiding by your request not to offer or lease any until Congress can review the GAO report.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Navy
SUBJECT (U)

Mexican Navy - US Navy Cooperation

HIGHLIGHTS

- Operations:
  -- SPRINGBOARD/READEX - Mexican Navy occasionally sends observers.
  -- Mexican ships make frequent visits to US West and Gulf Coast ports but no bilateral exercises are conducted.

- Personnel Exchanges:
  -- PEP exchange of language instructors at the Naval Academies.
  -- Foreign military training for Mexican cadets scheduled for Jun - Jul 80.

- CNO visits:
  -- CNO receives annual invitation to "EL GRITO" but has generally sent a representative.

- NPW:
  -- Mexico has not permitted NPW visits since 1968.

DISCUSSION

- Transfer of two Gearing class destroyers to Mexico has been approved by USN but Congressional approval not yet obtained.
- US has no _______ in Mexico. _______ handles limited Security Assistance Program. Relations between gulf and West Coast US Naval District Commanders and their Mexican counterparts are good but Navy-to-Navy contacts are limited.
- SAR:
  -- Overland aircraft accidents in Mexico have resulted in protracted SAR problems because of difficulties in obtaining clearances for SAR aircraft and personnel to operate in Mexican territory.
  -- An overwater SAR agreement exists between the Mexican Navy and US Coast Guard.
- Emphasize to Mexican SECNAV/CNO that USN is open to any recommendation for increasing cooperative efforts.
SUBJECT (U)
Joint Mexican-United States Defense Commission (JMUSDC)

HIGHLIGHTS (b)

- Constituted on 27 Feb 1942 by Presidents of Mexico and U.S.
- Purpose:
  -- To study problems relating to the common defense of the U.S. and Mexico.
  -- To consider broad plans for the defense of Mexico and adjacent areas of the U.S.
  -- To propose to the respective governments defense measures which, in its opinion, should be adopted.

- Organization:
  -- A Mexican and U.S. section.
    --- U.S. section is office of record for the Commission.
  -- U.S. section composition:
    --- 3 military members (USA, USN and USAF).
    --- Advisors from USA, USN, USAF, USMC and State.
  -- Mexican section consists of 2 military members (Army, Navy) and 7 military advisors and a Foreign Office advisor.

- Functions:
  -- Autonomous organization.
  -- Has power to convene anywhere in Mexico or U.S.
  -- Prescribes its own rules of procedure.
  -- Conceives plans and suggests procedures to counter attacks against either country.
  -- Coordinates employment of the armed forces of the two nations for joint defense.

- Accomplishments:
  -- After WW II, Commission completed a Mexico-U.S. Emergency Defense Plan, MEXUS 100/1, approved in 1955.
Air Defense Working Group was established in 1960 and submitted a report proposing the establishment of an ADIZ.

- Formal meetings have been temporarily suspended (at the Mexican request) due to the inability of U.S. and Mexico to agree on the revision of MEXUS 100/1.
- Informal liaison continues by means by annual working luncheons.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Reconvene the Commission's formal meeting schedule.
- Commission can advise Mexico on modernization of armed forces.
SUBJECT (U)

Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) between the U. S. Navy and the Mexican Navy (MN).

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

The U. S. Navy and the Mexican Navy have had a one-for-one exchange of language instructors at their respective Naval Academies since 1961. In December 1979 the USN requested realignment of their billet to a position at the Mexican Center for superior studies (CESNAV). This proposal was not accepted by the MN, however, the has been requested to pursue the realignment issue with the MN.

DISCUSSION (FOUO)

Discussions in 1979 with the present USN exchange officer and revealed that the USN billet at the Mexican Naval Academy was not offering professionally challenging and interesting duty. Additionally, the Mexican Naval Academy's location at Vera Cruz, isolated from major populated areas, imposed some hardship on the exchange officer's family. Two separate realignment proposals for different positions at CESNAV were made to the MN in December 1979 and March 1980. On 1 April the Mexican CNO advised that the most recent proposal (assignment of a LCDR instructor in an operational area) could not be accommodated in the CESNAV training plan.

Realignment of the Mexican Naval Academy billet was still considered necessary and in May the was requested to discuss alternative positions with the MN.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

Provided for background information

PAGE DETERMINED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
Reviewed by DON/AA DRMD
IAW EO 13226, Section 3.3
Date: Jan 5 2018
SUBJECT (U)

- Mexico's Law of the Sea (LOS) Position

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

- Mexico's LOS position stresses coastal state control over broad ocean areas and international control of the deep seabed.

DISCUSSION (S)

- Mexico claims and recognizes a 12 nm territorial sea.
  -- Mexico claims a 200 nm economic zone. (Not recognized by U.S.)
  -- Mexico also claims a 200 nm fishery zone, which is generally recognized by U.S.

- Mexico is an active member of the group of underdeveloped nations seeking international control of the deep seabed and exploitation for the benefit of poor nations.

- At the 1974 Caracas Session of the LOS Conference, Mexico proposed an article for inclusion in the text providing for coastal state control over military installations and devices on or over the continental shelf.
  -- Mexico obtained 29 co-sponsors for its proposed text among less developed countries.
  -- U.S. opposed the proposal both publicly and privately and it was not included in the "main trends" document prepared at the end of the session.
  -- Mexico is still interested in the concept.

- Mexico has indicated that U.S. "won't have any trouble" concerning unimpeded transit of straits.

- Mexico is suggesting regional approaches to some LOS problems.

- Current real world problems with Mexico on LOS matters:
  -- Dispute between U.S. and Mexican fishing interests regarding tuna in Mexican 200 nm fishery zone.
  --- U.S. does not recognize coastal state competence over migratory species such as tuna.
-- Marine scientific research (MSR).

--- Approximately one third of all U.S. MSR is done in claimed Mexican waters.
--- Mexico strictly enforces its regulations, including the requirement for early submission of requests, but frequently does not respond to requests in timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- For background only.
The Mexican Navy is primarily a coastal patrol force with a very limited combat capability. While the Navy has proven its ability to monitor selected areas of its territorial waters, it lacks the capability to conduct effective patrols of its entire coastline and 200-NM economic zone. The bulk of the naval inventory consists of WWII vintage ex-US ships. The small naval air arm can conduct only limited visual reconnaissance and search and rescue operations.

DISCUSSION

Organization: Secretary of the Navy: ADM Ricardo Chazarro Lara
Commander of the Navy: ADM Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega

The Secretary of the Navy exercises ministerial supervision over the Navy, delegating operational command to the Commander of the Navy (HQ Mexico City). The Navy is divided into two fleets: the Gulf Fleet (HQ Veracruz) and the Pacific Fleet (HQ Acapulco Bay).

NoB:

2 Destroyers (DD) (2 FLETCHER class)
1 Frigate (FF) (EDSALL class)
38 Patrol Ships (PGP) (ex-U.S. minesweepers)
39 Patrol Boats (PB/PC/PSB)
4 Amphibious Personnel Transports (LPA) (ex-U.S.)
2 Landing Ships (LST) (ex-U.S.)
26 Auxiliaries/Support Ships
112 TOTAL

- Naval Air: 39 aircraft (5 light transports, 4 trainers, 30 light utility aircraft/helos)
- Personnel Strength: 20,800 (including 2,500 Marines)
Current Developments:

- Mexican naval acquisition plans are unclear. The Navy does perceive a need for destroyer-size ships and patrol vessels, and in 1979 unsuccessfully attempted to purchase GEARING-class destroyers from the U.S. Presently, however, the Navy is hampered by severe budgetary constraints. Moreover, major Mexican military acquisitions are traditionally received during the Presidential term in which their purchase was initiated. Since Lopez Portillo's term expires in 1982, little time remains to effect major purchases.
SECRET NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALs

SUBJECT (U)

U.S. Navy - Mexican Navy Intelligence Cooperation

HIGHLIGHTS (C/HOPON)

(C/HOPON) No exchanges of naval intelligence are made at this time.

DISCUSSION (C/HOPON)

(U) Although the Mexican Navy participated as an observer in the INICs (Inter-American Naval Intelligence Conferences) of the 1960s, it did not participate in INIC-73 or INIC-76 for political reasons.

(U) Representatives from the Mexican Navy attended the International Maritime Drug Interdiction Intelligence Conference in Washington, 15 May 79.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

(U) Encourage Mexican participation in an active exchange of intelligence information of mutual interest.
SUBJECT (U)
Political-Economic Summary - Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS (S/NOFORN)

Mexico has had a stable, quasi-democratic civilian government under the Institutional Revolutionary Party since 1910. President Lopez Portillo has been successful in managing domestic political issues and is likely to serve out the remainder of this term (due to expire in 1982) with few economic or political problems. Although on balance relations with the U.S. have been friendly, Mexico's independent and vigorously nationalist foreign policy has resulted in disputes with the U.S.

DISCUSSION (S/NOFORN)

Government: President: Jose Lopez Portillo y Pacheco
Secretary of Foreign Relations: Jorge Castaneda de la Rosa
Minister of National Defense: GEN Felix Galvan Lopez

Domestic Politics:

-Lopez Portillo, elected in 1976 for a single 6 year term, has proved adept at conciliating and coopting political opposition. More generally, the ruling PRI is a well-entrenched political party buttressed by a populist tradition. As a result, the present Mexican political system is considered highly stable and able to manage domestic discontent.

-Mexico has a small terrorist movement which was the cause of a rise in political violence during 1976. This has been effectively brought under control by the Mexican military.

The Economy:

-Mexico has pursued a strategy of seeking high economic growth rates (the target for the coming year is 8% real growth) at the risk of inflation. As a result, inflation has become Mexico's most serious economic problem: It is currently running at about a 30% rate, compared to a 20% increase in 1979.
- Mexico has had historically high unemployment, presently estimated to be in excess of 30%. Part of the government's strategy in dealing with this has been to tacitly approve illegal seasonal migration to the U.S.

- Despite these economic problems, the mid-term prospects of the Mexican economy are excellent due to the returns anticipated from recently discovered oil reserves. Mexico intends to produce 2.5 million barrels per day by 1982, an output roughly equivalent to that of Iraq or Kuwait.

- In March of this year, Lopez Portillo announced Mexico's decision not to join the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). The protectionist implications of this decision will complicate U.S.-Mexican trade negotiations.

Foreign Relations:

- Mexico has followed an independent foreign policy which has been receptive to relations with Communist countries. Mexico is, for instance, the only Latin American country which has never broken relations with Cuba. Further, Mexico's populist, "anti-imperialist" tradition has often favorably disposed it toward insurgent groups in Central America, though Mexico has not actively attempted to destabilize existing governments (save in supporting the FSLN against Somoza). Nevertheless, there is little perception in Mexico that a Central America ruled by radical regimes would constitute a threat to Mexican interests.

- Relations with the U.S. have been broadly positive, but plagued by sharp disagreements on particular issues. Perhaps the most divisive issue at present is that of illegal immigration to the U.S. Similarly contentious issues, such as that of Mexican winter vegetable "dumping" in the U.S., have in the past been effectively resolved.
SUBJECT (U)

Military Summary - Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS (SYNOPSIS)

Mexican military forces are able to maintain internal security and control any foreseeable insurgency threat, but possess little conventional combat capability. Military budget limitations and an historic de-emphasis of the military by the civilian leadership will permit no more than limited force modernization in the 1980's.

DISCUSSION (SYNOPSIS)

Total Armed Forces: 109,000 (4th largest in Latin America)

Military Budget: $699 million (6th largest in Latin America)

Army: Secretary of National Defense: GEN Felix Galvan Lopez

(The Secretary of National Defense, traditionally a senior Army officer, exercises direct command over the Army.)

- Personnel Strength: 83,500

- Organization: Primary tactical units are 66 separate infantry battalions subordinate to 35 military zones. Zone commanders, who have wide administrative powers, are directly appointed by the President.

- Equipment: Major equipment is mostly of U.S. WWII origin, supplemented with more modern equipment from West Germany, Italy, and France. The Army hopes to convert its horse cavalry units to mechanized units by 1982 (the Army currently has 11,500 horses but only 45 tanks).

Air Force: Commander: LTG Hector Berthier Aguiluz

- Personnel Strength: 4,600
- **AOB:**
  - 95 Trainers (include T-33s organized into tactical squadrons)
  - 72 Transports
  - 70 Utility
  - 24 Helicopters
  - 261 Total

- **Equipment:** Equipment, largely of U.S. origin, is aging and obsolete. Air Force received an embarrassing rebuff in 1978, when the U.S. refused to sell Mexico F-5 aircraft.

**Navy:**
- Secretary of the Navy: ADM Ricardo Chezaro Lara
- Commander of the Navy: ADM Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega
- Personnel Strength: 20,800 (including 2,500 Marines)

- **NOB:**
  - 2 Destroyers (DD)
  - 1 Frigate (FF)
  - 38 Patrol Ships (PGF)
  - 39 Patrol Boats (PC/PB/PSB)
  - 6 Amphibious Warfare Ships (LPA/LST)
  - 26 Auxiliaries/Service Craft
  - 112 Total

- **Equipment:** Most ships in the inventory are of U.S. WWII origin. The bulk of the fleet is obsolescent and in need of replacement, but the Navy has been slow to make the necessary purchases, due in part to severe budget restrictions.
SUBJECT) (U)

US Security Interests in Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

- US has vital security interests in Mexico.

- Geographic prominence.
  -- Since WWII, Mexico has provided a secure and stable southern US flank.
  -- 2,000 miles of virtually undefended border between US and Mexico.
  -- Coastlines on Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico flank important SLOCs.

- Vital to US that bases, facilities, etc., in Mexico be denied to potentially hostile powers.

- Mexico one of most developed countries in LATAM.
  -- Good highway system, extensive railway and aviation networks.

- Source of strategically important resources.
  -- Continued discovery and development of extensive petroleum/natural gas reserves.
    --- Newly discovered petroleum reserves provides that country with political and economic leverage in world affairs.
  -- Source of lead, zinc, sulfur and silver.

- Largest naval force in Central America.
  -- Many ships obsolete.
  -- Considered incapable of conducting sustained operations beyond Mexico's territorial waters.

DISCUSSION (U)

- Security arrangements.
  -- Mexico-US Emergency Defense Plan (MEXUS-100/1, 1955)
--- Member of Rio Treaty.
--- Member Inter-American Defense Board.

--- Mexico takes very narrow legalistic view of Rio Treaty and IADB as instruments for military alliance.

- Areas of friction.
  -- Human rights.
  -- Illegal aliens.
  -- Perception of attempted US domination of western hemisphere and manipulation of hemispheric organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support US JCS objectives.
  -- Encourage more responsive/cooperative attitude on defense commitments under Rio Treaty.

- Encourage modernization efforts for Mexican Navy.
- Promote good US/Mexican military-to-military relationships.
- Encourage Mexican Navy support for nuclear powered warship visits on a routine basis.
- Encourage Mexican Navy support for a US/Mexican agreement on Search and Rescue missions over Mexican land areas.
SUBJECT (U)

- Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) Visits to Mexican Ports

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

- U.S. NPW have visited Mexican ports on three occasions:
  -- USS TRUXTUN (CGN-35) to Mazatlan in July 1967.
  -- USS SHARK (SSN-591) and USS BAINBRIDGE (CGN-25) to Acapulco in October 1968.

- Requests for additional visits in 1970 and 1971 were disapproved by the GOM. Principal reasons for disapprovals were GOM concerns over safety and liability for damages in event of nuclear reactor accident.
- Requests for April 1977 and February 1978 visits were disapproved. The reasons were not clear.

DISCUSSION (U)

- Visits in 1967-68 were conducted without incident, but questions were raised regarding safety and liability assurances in 1968.
- Request for TRUXTUN to visit Acapulco in late Aug 1970 was disapproved by GOM.
  -- Cause for disapproval was strong objection from Mexican Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) on basis of safety considerations.
  -- GOM requested meeting with U.S. technical representatives to convince CNEN. No meeting was arranged.
- With change in Mexican administration in early 1971, request for visit by SSN to Acapulco in early July 71 was submitted.
  -- GOM raised issue of liability assurances, indicating Standard Statement assurances were insufficient.
  -- GOM insisted on guarantee of indemnity of predetermined amount.
  -- Discussions between USG-GOM regarding liability including NPW policy vs that for commercial nuclear ship SAVANNAH, and USG-French negotiations did not resolve issue. The proposed SSN visit was not approved.
- USG made no further visit requests although diplomatic efforts continued without success to resolve liability issue.
- From late 1971 to 1977, CINCPACFLT expressed little interest in visits to Mexico.
- With availability of amplified liability assurances in Public Law 93-513 and election of new administration in Mexico, Navy expressed renewed interest in Mexican port visits in 1976.
- Request for SSN visit to Ensenada in April 1977 was disapproved.
  -- Reason given was GOM lacked guidelines governing NPW visits.
- Request for a visit in Feb 1978 was also disapproved.
  -- The excuse given was, "too busy with preparation for U.S. Vice Presidential visit."
  -- Disapproval was viewed as political problem. The Embassy was asked to explore actual reasons.
- In 19 Aug 78 message, State requested that the Embassy renew initiatives and advise recommended course of action.
  -- Amb made a demarche to GOM in Sep 78. No GOM response has been received.
- Because of Sep 78 demarche by Amb, State would not approve submission of a request for USS D.D. EISENHOWER to visit Veracruz in Nov 78.
- State also refused to consider a proposed port visit by NAUTILUS to Mazatlan or Ensenada in May 79.
  -- Concern stemmed from President Carter's personal involvement in U.S.-Mexican relations.
- DEPASST SECDEF Slocombe sent a letter to ASST SECSTATE Vaky in May 79 encouraging him to take an active role in resolving the impasse on the NPW issue.
  -- To date there has been no action.
- COMSUBLANT has submitted a request to OPNAV for USS MENDEL RIVERS (SSN-686) to visit Veracruz 1-4 Oct 80.
  -- The request was staffed through OSD/ISA (FMRA) and State in the normal manner on 2 July 1980, and provided to the Mexican government on 29 July.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- If appropriate:
  -- Express interest in resuming NPW visits to Mexico beginning with USS MENDEL RIVERS in Veracruz 1-4 Oct 80.
  -- Emphasize that U.S. NPW visits would be made on the basis of our safety assurances (Standard Statement), liability assurances (PL 93-513), and unprecedented NPW safety record.
SUBJECT (U)

Hydrographic surveys of waters off the Yucatan, Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

DMA is planning a hydrographic survey of Yucatan Channel and the adjacent part of Campeche Bank within Mexico territorial waters to be conducted through resources of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO). U.S. shares with Mexico a concern for safe navigation of deep draft ships transiting Yucatan Channel and adjacent banks en route to deep water ports on the Gulf Coast. Request for country clearance has been staffed in DoD for action by Department of State.

DISCUSSION (U)

The area to be surveyed by the U.S. Navy is defined as being the Yucatan Channel between latitudes 20°30'N and 24°40'N and portions of Campeche Bank westward to longitude 90°15'W. Precise navigational aids would be operated on the northeastern shore of Yucatan Peninsula to support the survey within territorial waters. The target date for beginning the survey operation is 15 October 1980. It is estimated operations will take approximately one year with usual intermittent port calls for logistics and repair. The ship will be identified prior to beginning operations. Raw and/or processed survey data will be made available to Mexico. Preliminary discussions of the project have been held with Eng Alberto Villasana, Director of the General Directorate of Geography of National Territory (DGGTN) in Mexico and in Washington and with Admiral F. Piana Lara, Director General of the General Directorate of Oceanography (DGO) in Mexico.

OBJECTIVES (U)

Surveys are planned to support the general upgrading of nautical charts of the area. The charts are currently based on sparse data from old surveys and fail to meet established criteria for accuracy. It is expected that data from the planned surveys will enable production of charts satisfying the needs of all users.

RECOMMENDATIONS (U)

Recommend that participation in NAVOCEANO survey activities by Mexico be encouraged. U.S. would welcome this participation of Mexican mapping and charting representatives in survey activities at no cost and will provide raw and/or processed data as required.
JULIAN NAVA SWORN IN AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO

Julian Nava of Northridge, California, was sworn in April 21, 1980 as United States Ambassador to Mexico. He succeeds Patrick J. Lucey.

Mr. Nava was Professor of History at California State University for 22 years. He has also taught in a number of foreign countries. Last year he completed 12 years of service on the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Born June 19, 1927, in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Nava received an A.B. from Pomona College in 1951 and an A.M. and PH.D. from Harvard University in 1955. He served in the U.S. Naval Air Force from 1945 to 1946.

From 1953 to 1954 he was a teacher at the United States Cultural Center in Caracas, and from 1955 to 1957 he taught at the University of Puerto Rico. He was Professor of History at California State University from 1957 to 1979.

Mr. Nava taught at the Universidad de Valladolid in Spain in 1962-63 and at the Centro de Estudios Universitarios Colombo-American in Bogota in 1964-65. He was elected to the Los Angeles Board of Education in 1967 and served until 1979. Since earlier this year he has been Special Assistant to the President of California State University.

Mr. Nava is chairman of the McGraw-Hill National Broadcasting Advisory Council for Public Service Programs and has served as president of the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies. He is on the boards of Plaza de la Raza and the Hispanic Urban Center and on the advisory committees of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and Bilingual Children's Television. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the history of Mexican Americans.