UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01
CIUDAD 01093 021459Z
ACTION ARA-01

UNCLASSIFIED

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 CA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00
SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 H-01 IM-01
TEDE-00 INR-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
OCS-03 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00
CIO-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00
DRL-04 G-00 MR-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /024W
----------446BD5 021519Z /38

R 020814Z JUN 98
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1430
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
ALL USCONS MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 1093

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CSC, ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

REF: CIUDAD JUAREZ 0560

1. SUMMARY: THE CHIHUAHUA BRANCH OF COPARMEX, AN ASSOCIATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02
CIUDAD 01093 021459Z

OF PROMINENT BUSINESS OWNERS, HELD A CONFERENCE ON MAY 14, 1998
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2006 200502506

UNCLASSIFIED
TO DISCUSS VIEWS ON PUBLIC SAFETY IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. GUEST SPEAKER GOVERNOR FRANCISCO BARRIO WAS ON THE DEFENSIVE BEFORE THE GROUP BY DEFENDING THE PROJECTS HE WORKED ON AS GOVERNOR OF CHIHUAHUA. THE Consensus of the forum was that public safety should be a priority issue and at the forefront of any agenda addressed by Mexican authorities.

2. GUILLERMO VELAZCO ARZAC, SPOKESPERSON FOR THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION "MEXICO UNIDO CONTRA LA DELINCUENCIA," PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SAFETY. ACCORDING TO VELAZCO, THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A SEPARATE ENTITY RUN AND OPERATED BY BUSINESS OWNERS. THEIR PHILOSOPHY would combat impunity, educate society and create unity between private and public sectors to solve crimes.

3. JOSE SIGALA VALERO, NEW PRESIDENT OF CENTRO EMPRESARIAL DE CIUDAD JUAREZ, ACCUSED THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF COMPLICITY IN MOST CRIMES OCCURRING IN THE CITY. HE ADDED THAT THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION PROTECTS CRIMINALS INSTEAD OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES. SIGALA PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A MUNICIPAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, NOT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, BUT AS A SEPARATE ENTITY MANAGED BY SOCIETY, I.E. BUSINESS OWNERS.

4. DR. GERARDO ARANDA OROZCO, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF COPARMEX, CONCURRED WITH VELASCO AND SIGALA. ARANDA STATED MEXICAN AUTHORITIES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES IN PGR PERSONNEL AND HIRE EMPLOYEES WHO KNEW ABOUT LAWS AND ENFORCED THEM PROPERLY. HE ADDED THAT EDUCATIONAL REFORM IS NEEDED IN MEXICO AND THAT TRAINING COURSES ON ETHICS AND CIVICS SHOULD BE PREREQUISITES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CIUDAD 01093 021459Z
WHEN HIRING GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, IN ADDITION TO EDUCATIONAL REFORM HE PROPOSED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WORK HAND IN HAND TO COMBAT CRIME.

5. GOVERNOR BARRIO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PUBLIC SAFETY IN CIUDAD JUAREZ BUT INSTEAD OF PRESENTING SOLUTIONS HE BRIEDED THE FORUM ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS GOVERNOR OF CHIHUAHUA. HE ENCOURAGED THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT THE PAN ADMINISTRATION SO THAT PROJECTS LEFT INCOMPLETE COULD CONTINUE. HE HARANGUED THE COMMITTEE FOR NOT TRUSTING THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR BEING
UNCLASSIFIED
BLIND TO WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. BARRIO SAID THE STATE
JUDICIAL POLICE IS NOW FREE OF "MADRINAS" (PSEUDO POLICE OFFICERS).
HE SAID POLICE OFFICERS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED, AND THAT IN
5 YEARS 400 SIGNIFICANT CASES HAD GONE TO TRIAL. HE CITED
THE NEW INVESTIGATION EQUIPMENT AND STOLEN CAR LEGISLATION AS
EXAMPLES OF STEPS HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN.

COMMENTS: A GROWING SENSE THAT A PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS
EXISTS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ HAS BEEN CAUSED BY A NUMBER OF
FACTORS, INCLUDING: THE RAPE AND MURDER OF AT LEAST 100
YOUNG WOMEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS; SCORES OF DRUG-RELATED
KILLINGS, MANY IN PUBLIC PLACES, SINCE THE DEATH OF JUAREZ
CARTEL LEADER AMADO CARRILLO FUENTES LAST SUMMER; INCREASING
PUBLICITY ABOUT THE 100 PLUS CASES OF "DESAPARECIDOS" IN
JUAREZ IN RECENT YEARS (SEE REFTEL); A SHARP INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF BANK ROBBERIES (14 IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS ALONE,
WITH NO ARRESTS); AND FREQUENT KILLINGS IN BATTLES AMONG THE
CITY'S MORE THAN 500 JUVENILE GANGS. THE PRI, IN ITS EFFORTS
TO RECAPTURE THE OFFICES OF GOVERNOR OF CHIHUAHUA AND MAYOR
OF JUAREZ POSITIONS IS MAKING CRIME A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE.
GOVERNOR BARRIO'S PUBLIC STANCE THAT LEVELS OF CRIME IN JUAREZ
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
PAGE 04 CIUDAD 01093 021459Z
ARE ABOUT NORMAL FOR A CITY ITS SIZE HAS NOT RESONATED WELL
WITH THE PRESS OR PUBLIC. IN PARTICULAR, WOMEN'S AND HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUPS ARE FOCUSING INCREASING ATTENTION ON THE SERIES
OF MURDERS OF YOUNG WOMEN, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED DESPITE PAST
POLICE CLAIMS THAT THE PRINCIPAL PERPETRATORS HAD BEEN ARRESTED.
WARD