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INFO
LOG-00  ACDA-08  ACDE-00  CIAE-00  CPR-02  DODE-00  DOEE-00
SRPP-00  DS-00  FBlE-00  UTED-00  H-01  TEDE-00  INR-00
L-01  ADS-00  NSAB-00  NSCE-00  OMB-01  OPIC-01  PA-00
PM-00  PRS-00  P-00  SP-00  SSC-01  TRSE-00  T-00
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R 132115Z OCT 98
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 2361

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MX

SUBJECT: INAUGURATION OF CHIHUAHUA GOVERNOR: THE RETURN OF
THE PRI

1. CHIHUAHUA GOVERNOR PATRICIO MARTINEZ GARCIA WAS
INAUGURATED ON OCTOBER 3, MARKING THE INSTITUTIONAL
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S (PRI) RETURN TO POWER IN CHIHUAHUA
AFTER A SIX-YEAR TERM BY FRANCISCO BARRIO OF THE NATIONAL
ACTION PARTY (PAN). THE MAIN THEME OF MARTINEZ'S
INAUGURATION ADDRESS WAS PUBLIC SECURITY, WHICH HAD BEEN HIS
MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE. HE FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON CIUDAD
JUAREZ, PLEDGING ACTION ON THE CASES OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED
YOUNG WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN JUAREZ OVER THE PAST
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FIVE YEARS. MARTINEZ PROMISED TO ASSIGN AS MANY DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS TO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENTS AS NECESSARY AND
DEManded MORE SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.

2. MUCH OF MARTINEZ'S SPEECH FOCUSED ON JUAREZ, AS HE
PROMISED THE CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, A NEW BORDER
HIGHWAY BETWEEN JUAREZ AND OJINAGA, REGULARIZATION OF
SQUATTER COLONIES, A HOSPITAL FOR STATE GOVERNMENT WORKERS,
AND A NEW TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. MARTINEZ WAS CAREFUL NOT
TO LIMIT HIS PROMISES TO THE LARGE CITIES IN THE STATE, BUT
POINTEDLY HAD SOMETHING SPECIFIC IN HIS SPEECH FOR EACH OF
THE STATE'S 66 MUNICIPALITIES.
3. Despite his attention to Juárez in the speech, many juarenses fear that Martínez's focus will be more on the interior of the state, especially the city of Chihuahua. Martínez named only one Juárez resident to his cabinet--defeated PRI candidate for Juárez mayor, José Eleno Villalva, who will head the state's water department. Martínez filled most important positions with those who had worked for him during his term as mayor of Chihuahua City (92-95).

4. President Zedillo had planned to attend, but when other commitments took priority he sent a supreme court justice in his place. The lack of attendance by any cabinet level official from Mexico City was also noted, as was the absence of Martínez's primary election rival, Senator Artemio Iglesias, and numerous PRI congressmen who had supported Iglesias.

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5. Comment. Martínez only briefly mentioned that his ability to fulfill his promises is limited by the state budget, which is largely dependent on how Mexico City apportions funds. Martínez's advantage, however, is that the central government will likely be more generous with a PRI-run Chihuahua than it was under the previous PAN-controlled administration. End comment.

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