

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CONTROL: 9801

RECD: MAY 11, 1966, 3:14PM

FROM: MADRID

ACTION: SECSTATE PRIORITY 1552

CONFIDENTIAL MAY 11

1. AMCONGEN BARCELONA REPORTS THAT AT APPROX 1PM TODAY GROUP ESTIMATED 130 PRIESTS GATHERED AT CATHEDRAL AND MARCHED IN PROCESSION FEW BLOCKS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND FOR SOME TIME BLOCKED TRAFFIC ON VIA LAYETNA. PURPOSE DEMONSTRATION WAS TO PROTEST BEATING OF STUDENT, JOAQUIN BLIX LLUCH, ONE OF STUDENT DELEGATES ARRESTED MAY 6. APPROX 60 UNIFORMED POLICE ATTACHED PRIESTS WITH TRUNCHEONS STRIKING AND KICKING THEM. PRIESTS DID NOT RUN AND POLICE HAD TO PUSH AND SHOVE SEVERAL INTO SIDE STREETS WHERE THEY PROCEEDED TO ADMINISTER MORE THOROUGH BEATING. REACTION OF NORMAL NOONDAY CROWD IN AREA WAS ONE OF HORROR AND SHOCK. NO SHOUTING OR PLACARDS INVOLVED. AFTER APPARENTLY COMPLETING JOB OF DISPERSING PRIESTS, POLICE WITHDREW. BELIEVE NO ARRESTS MADE. SOME INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AND STORY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL APPEAR WIDELY.

DUKE

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Authority NND 959000

By 212 NARA Date 2017

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