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NATIONAL POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Comedy film "Nosotros los Nobles" a portrait of the Mexican reality?

1. (U) The recently released Mexican film *Nosotros los Nobles* was the second-biggest opening for a domestic film in more than ten years. The simplistic storyline depicts the contrast between the rich and the poor in Mexico through the tale of wealthy businessman Germán Noble. The movie narrates how Noble survives a heart attack and decides to teach his three spoiled children the value of work. The idea of the movie originated from a tweet by Paulina Peña, the daughter of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, who responded to criticism of one of her father's campaign ads by calling the critics, "a bunch of idiots who form part of the proletariat and only criticize those they envy." The film's director, Gary Alazraki, has said in interviews that the movie is partly a reflection of his life as a child of a wealthy Mexican family who learned important life lessons during his time at film school at the University of Southern California. Alazraki is the son of Carlos Alazraki, a well-known advertising businessman who previously worked for the PRI party and telecommunications giant Carlos Slim. (Mexico City)

Mexico City Mayor Has High Approval Ratings

2. (U) In a poll released on April 9 by the major daily *Reforma*, Mexico City Mayor Miguel Ángel Mancera received an overall approval rating of 53 percent. His approval rating among opinion leaders in the capital is 70 percent. These numbers place him ahead of the pace of his predecessor Marcelo Ebrard, who received an approval rating of 50 percent at this point in his term, and Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas (mayor from 1997 to 1999), who had 41 percent approval at his four-month point. 2006 and 2012 presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador, mayor from 2000 to 2006, had a 61 percent approval rating at this point in his term. 50 percent of citizens polled disapproved of the job Mancera's government has done so far to ensure public security. (Mexico City)

Legislature Advances Key Proposals

3. (SBU) The Chamber of Deputies this week passed Mexico's National Energy Strategy. The legislation will now go to the

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president for signature. The document lays out the country's plans for energy production through 2017 and sets the stage for an energy debate expected to come later this year. The Chamber's Justice Committee also approved the reforms to the Victims' Law with no changes from the version passed in the Senate. Legislators told Poloff that the reform has a good chance of easily being approved by the full Chamber. In the Senate, the Finance, Legislative Studies, and Constitutional approved a proposal to regulate state debt. A vote in the full Senate is due in the coming weeks, after which the legislation will move to the Chamber. The Senate this week also passed secondary legislation for the 2012 constitutional reforms to Article 73, which allows federal authorities to assert jurisdiction for crimes against journalists. The bill will now go to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration. The legislation would obligate PGR to create a specialized unit for crimes against journalists, allow federal authorities to attract cases from the local level, and enable federal judges to hear such cases. (Mexico City)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Conviction in Veracruz Journalist Murder Case Draws Controversy

4. (SBU) On April 9, in a high profile journalist killing case, Veracruz prosecutors won a 38-year prison sentence against Jorge Antonio Hernandez, the man now convicted of killing well-known journalist Regina Martinez. Before her April 2012 murder, Martinez had written for *Proceso* magazine for 10 years and had recently published reports that included accusations of local government corruption. In October 2012, the Veracruz State Prosecutor's Office announced that it had arrested Jorge Antonio Hernandez, who had confessed to beating Martinez to death in an attempted robbery. However, when presented before the judge, Hernandez said that he was tortured into confessing to the crime. In reaction to the sentence, *Proceso*, the magazine Martinez wrote for, issued a statement rejecting the conviction because the fingerprints found in the journalist's home do not match Hernandez's and because they believe the conviction was based on a forced confession. Civil society organizations, including Article 19 and the Committee to Protect Journalists, have also expressed doubts about the conviction because prosecutors dismissed Martinez' journalism work as the motive for her killing early in the investigation. Meanwhile, prosecutors and Veracruz governor Javier Duarte say the sentence shows the government takes journalists' killings seriously. In its recent report, Article 19 singled out Veracruz as the deadliest place for journalists, with nine journalists killed since Duarte took office. (Note: The Regina Martinez case is featured in the forthcoming 2013 Human Right Report on Mexico, including the fact that Hernandez alleged that he was tortured into confessing. End Note). (Mexico City).

SECURITY

Government Claims Homicides are Falling

5. (SBU) Secretary of Government Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong announced on April 10 that in the first three months of the Peña Nieto administration, homicides nationwide related to organized crime had dropped 17 percent and kidnappings had diminished by 25 percent compared to the same period last year. Osorio Chong expressed cautious optimism and said that the government is working to reduce serious crimes even more, but stopped short of claiming that these numbers were the result of the government's security approach.

[Redacted] (Mexico City)

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Lynching in Chiapas

6. (U) According to Chiapas state police, hundreds of indigenous Tzotziles of San Juan Chamula lynched and burned alive a man accused of stealing a taxi on the night of April 6-7. (Mexico City)

SECURITY

Some Self-Defense Groups Join Guerrero Teachers Protests

7. (U) According to news reports, commanders of community police from four communities in the county of Tixtla, Guerrero, announced that they would join the protests of the Guerrero teachers union. These community police are associated with the Regional Council of Community Authorities (CRAC).

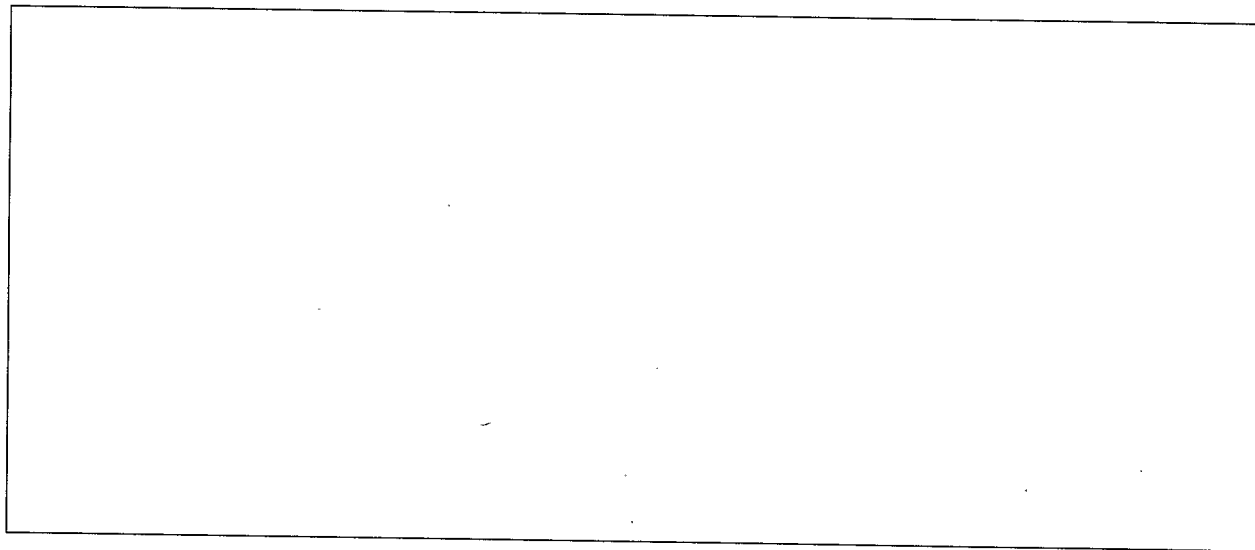
[Redacted] Calling themselves now the Popular Movement of Guerrero (MPG),

teachers, social organizations, and CRAC members again blocked the heavily-trafficked Highway of the Sun in Chilpancingo on April 11, and CRAC leader Eliseo Villar said they were giving an ultimatum to the Governor to rejoin a dialogue no later

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than April 12, or threatened to continue such demonstrations and blockages (Ref B). (Mexico City)

REGIONAL POLITICS



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Independent Candidates on the Ballot for the First Time in Baja California

9. (U) Tijuana businessman Rafael Loaiza Magaña became on April 8 the first independent gubernatorial candidate in Baja California—and Mexico. While Baja California is not the first state to allow so-called citizen candidates, the July 7 election will be the first gubernatorial election to include one. Loaiza was put forward by the Mexican association *Candidatos Ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos* (United Citizen Candidates of the United Mexican States). Independent candidates became possible in Mexico after a July 2012 constitutional reform. The Baja state electoral institute (IEPC-BC) also registered accountant Carlos Herrera Rodriguez as *Candidatos Ciudadanos*’ mayoral candidate for Tijuana. Loaiza [redacted] as an independent, he will receive no government campaign financing. [redacted] (Tijuana)

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‘Undecided’ Leads the Polls in Baja California Election

10. (U) A statewide opinion poll conducted during the first week of April by *Explora*, a Mexicali-based private marketing research firm, shows a statistical dead heat between the PRI and PAN-led coalitions for the July 7 gubernatorial election with 30.9 percent and 39.9 percent preference, respectively; however 34 percent of respondents remain undecided, and another five percent declined to answer. Previous polls conducted by a different company also showed a statistical tie—40 percent versus 36 percent—but that survey did not include “undecided.” The Labor (PT), Green (PVEM), and Social Encounter (PES) parties joined the PRI-led *Compromiso por Baja California* (Commitment for Baja California) coalition while the Baja California State (PEBC), New Alliance (PANAL), and Democratic Revolution (PRD) parties joined the PAN-led *Unidos por Baja California* (United for Baja California) coalition. The *Explora* poll also shows a four percentage point increase in preference for the PAN-led coalition when the candidates’ names were not mentioned in the question. When asked which coalition will win, 60.6 percent of respondents answered PRI/*Compromiso*. [redacted] (Tijuana)

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B1

A Public-Private Partnership Takes Root in the Yucatan.

11. (U) On April 5, the Yucatan Government signed a cooperative agreement with the Foundation of Yucantani Businesses (FEYAC) to promote the training and development of non-profit organizations. Governor Rolando Zapata Bello also announced 10 million pesos in funding (approximately U.S. \$800,000) for the organization’s childhood development program, *Ampliando del Desarrollo de los Niños* (ADN). An additional 5 million pesos was donated to FEYAC by the Yucatan Coordinating Business Council (CCE). FEYAC was founded by members of the local business community as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization to promote the social wellbeing of marginalized populations through educational, nutritional, and health programs. The ADN program, inspired by a program created by the *Fundacion del Empresariado Chihuahuense* AC in Chihuahua, provides after-school activities and nutritional support for poor children. In his remarks

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Governor Zapata said that the government could not solve social problems on its own, but needed the support of the business community and society as a whole.

[Redacted]

(Mérida)

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Greg Sanchez Makes a Bid for Political Comeback

12. (U) The PT announced its selection of former Cancun mayor Gregorio Sanchez Martinez as its candidate for state representative in the XI district of Quintana Roo (Cancun). Sanchez was arrested in May 2010 on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering while he was campaigning as the PRD candidate for governor. The charges were subsequently dropped. (Mérida)

Transit Police return to Nuevo Laredo

13. (SBU) On April 10 and 11 local press reported that a small number of unarmed transit police would begin patrols in Nuevo Laredo, accompanied in all cases by military troops. In June 2012, the 220 member force was relieved of duty after a string of shootings that killed and critically injured transit officers, presumably by TCO members. In the last two weeks, they have been manning check points in different parts of the city, especially on weekends, in coordination with the military. City Manager Juan Fernando Miranda Macias told the press their main role will be to patrol the streets, enforce the seat belt ordinance, and ticket speeders. The press reported that the transit police will also take the control and confianza vetting exams.

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(Nuevo

Laredo)

Monterrey ELOs Get Political

14. (U) The Pol/Econ section organized a visit to the Nuevo Leon State Congress for the Consulate's political-coned entry-level officer (ELO) mentoring group to learn how the entity operates and understand the current legislative agenda. The six ELOs, all on consular tours, met with Congress President Luis David Ortiz Salinas (PAN) and chairmen of the Justice and Public Security, Human Rights, and Youth Committees. They spoke about judicial reform, improved state security forces and the legislative process. The Human Rights Committee is focusing its efforts to expand indigenous rights, increase the role of women in politics through "affirmative action," and raise the quality of TV and radio programming to reduce crime.

[Redacted]

(Monterrey)

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The Pol/Econ section and political-coned ELOs visit Nuevo Leon's state congress.

General Salvador Cienfuegos Announces More Soldiers for Nuevo Leon

15. (U) Secretary of Defense General Salvador Cienfuegos visited Nuevo Leon on April 5 to attend opening ceremonies for a

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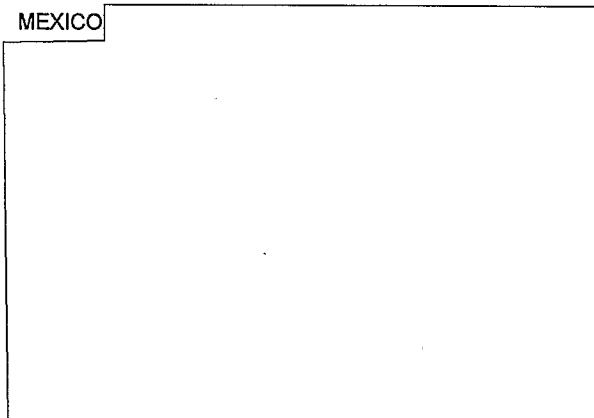
military camp and military housing. General Cienfuegos was quoted in *El Norte* stating that up to 600 more soldiers may arrive in Nuevo Leon in the coming months to cover parts of the state with weak police presence. While he stated that crime appears to be falling in the state, more soldiers could help to combat kidnapping and extortion. The presence of soldiers in Nuevo Leon has decreased in the past months, according to press reports. In September 2012 military patrol convoys in Monterrey were down 80% from the prior year, as soldiers were replaced by officers of the new *Fuerza Civil* state police. General Cienfuegos attended the opening of 48 apartments for soldiers and their families in the Seventh Military Zone of Escobedo, donated by approximately 50 local companies. He also attended the inauguration of Military Camp 7-C in Pesqueria, which received donated land and construction from the steel company Ternium. General Cienfuegos was accompanied by the Nuevo Leon Lieutenant Governor Alvaro Ibarra, Apodaca Mayor Raymundo Flores, Escobedo Mayor Cesar Cavazos, Commander of the Seventh Zone General Salvador Gutierrez and Commander of Military Region IV Noah Sandoval Alcazar. (Monterrey)

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MEXICO

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B6

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