

MOST OF MEXICO CITY CALM DESPITE STUDENT UPRISING

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Take a walk through riot-torn Mexico City, the host of the Olympic Games, and you would think you were in the most peaceful city in the world.

Of course you are.

Mexico City itself is all calm, all peaceful and guests find the hospitality of the Mexicans something to treasure for years.

In the plush Camino Real Hotel, headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, a string and piano orchestra provided palm court music.

No Hint of Trouble

Guests sat around sipping their before-dinner cocktails.

Move out of the Camino Real and take a walk to Mexico City's fashionable Reforma — Mexico's answer to France's Champs Elysee and Italy's Via Veneto—where the girls and boys were out enjoying themselves with not a hint of trouble.

About eight miles away, athletes trained happily at the Olympic Village in preparation for Saturday's opening of the Games. Talk of gun fights and people killed in the streets seemed thousands of miles away.

They never heard a shot fired in anger in last Wednesday's bloody riots that accounted for a reported 31 dead — and maybe more.

Over the last 2½ months some 51 people have been killed as students rioted against the Mexican government.

The blood bath between the students and the army on Wednesday happened at a housing development called Tlatelolco, a pleasant section by any standards, which houses 70,000 people and also accommodated the Vocational School—the school of many of the student rioters.

Tlatelolco is only a couple of miles from downtown Mexico City. Here, the palm court atmosphere of a pleasant afternoon changes — and quickly.

Hundreds of troops, armed with guns, surround the complex—one that looks like a city of steel.

Armored cars with guns at the ready stand at strategic points. Soldiers are on guard atop skyscraper buildings.

Other police are on hand to quell any future riots.

Games Go On

Downtown Mexico City, the Olympic Village, and other Olympic stadiums were oases compared with the tense and uneasy calm at Tlatelolco—the Plaza of the Three Cultures where students have been holding their meetings.

Olympic officials have said the games will open as scheduled.

"Has any athlete been

troubled?" was the official question.

The answer always has been, "no!"

Olympic officials claim the riots are the students' way of kicking at the Mexican government — and not at the Olympics.

That seems generally agreed.

But Mexico City is a city of the strangest contrasts — peace in 99% of the place and the problem of student rioting in the other 1%.

It's that 1% that is worrying friends of Mexico and the Olympic movement.