

DEATHS PUT AT 49 IN MEXICAN CLASH

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY Special to The New York Times
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500 Wounded After Troops
Fire on Students at Rally
—1,500 Taken Prisoner

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY
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MEXICO CITY, Oct. 3—Student leaders struggled to regroup their forces today after a night of bloodshed that left dozens dead, hundreds wounded and 1,500 in jail.

A thousand federal soldiers fired rifles and machine guns at what had been a peaceful student rally in the plaza of a housing project last night. When the shooting ended an hour later, the plaza and an adjacent Aztec ruin were strewn with bodies.

The official toll of the battle, which has already become known as La Noche Triste—The Night of Sorrow—was 28 dead and 200 wounded. But it was virtually certain that at least 49 persons had been killed and 500 wounded.

Olympics Planning Continues

Despite the violence, Mexico plunged ahead with preparations for the Olympic Games, scheduled to start Oct. 12. Avery Brundage, chairman of the International Olympics Committee, said that there was no connection between the "student manifestations" and the Olympics. [Page 60.]

Reports of the street fighting between troops and students have apparently cut the number of visitors expected at the Olympics. Hotels and travel agents reported cancellations.

The Minister of Defense said

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TAKING PRISONERS: Soldier aims his rifle to prod students captured during clash in Mexico City. (Associated Press)

Deaths Put at 49 as Mexican Troops Open Fire at Student Rally

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that the army move was prompted by sniper fire from apartment buildings in the project. Only one of the 28 persons officially listed as dead was a soldier. Seven soldiers, including a general, and three policemen were wounded. Many of the dead and wounded were women and children.

Students said today that six members of the National Strike Committee, which had led the two-month student strike here, were among the dead. Most of those taken prisoner last night were students.

Up to nightfall today, the only major incident occurred at the soccer stadium near the National University where students burned three trolley buses. Troops and tanks still surrounded the Nonoalco-Tlatelolco housing project, which has 76,000 tenants. The project is three miles from the center of Mexico City.

Today all of the buildings surrounding the central plaza, which is called the Plaza de las Tres Culturas because of the Aztec ruins, colonial church and the modern Foreign Ministry quarters nearby, were pocked with bullet holes. In two building, there were charred places that residents say were caused by cannon fire.

Some Residents Leave

Some residents were moving out of the project temporarily. Their belongings were piled on the sidewalks waiting for transportation. In the plaza, soldiers lounged in the sun and tank drivers slept beside their vehicles. The plaza, a paved area 100 yards square, was littered with paper, articles of clothing and women's shoes.

The owner of a curio shop in the plaza said that soldiers had stolen much of her stock. There were five bullet holes in the windows of her store. Another woman said that drunken soldiers had rampaged through the project after the battle, looking for girls.

At the vast National University campus, which is on the other side of the city from the housing project, there was quiet today. The 1,500-acre area, dotted with modern buildings, had been the center of the student strike. It was occupied by federal troops Sept. 18 but they left on Monday and the students took control again.

There were few students to be seen. Those who would comment said that plainclothes secret policemen had entered the campus looking for strike leaders. The strike has kept 150,000 high school and university students away from classes since the beginning of August.

'We Have Not Given Up'

The students said that remaining members of the strike committee were in hiding. "We have not given up," one said. "I was in that massacre last night, and after that I would never give up. But we need time to organize before we can go to the streets again."

The students' two-month-old confrontation with the Government has its roots in a deep discontent related more to political than to academic issues. Over the last weeks, violence has fanned their militancy, and made their demands more specific.

These demands include insistence on freedom for all people in Mexico imprisoned for allegedly political reasons, most of them leftists, and the abolition of articles of the penal code punishing people for acts of subversion or public disorder, or for spreading ideas of foreign governments that would



Students gathered in the Plaza de Las Tres Culturas in Mexico City Wednesday night just before violence erupted



Mexican soldiers charging into crowd at beginning of clash in the plaza Wednesday night

lead to subversion or disorder. Instead of contenting themselves merely with making demands, the students have gone forth from the campus in small brigades to try to win support in neighborhoods and factories.

The original purpose of the rally at the housing project was to protest the continued occupation of the Santo Tomás campus of the National Polytechnic Institute by federal troops. The students had planned to march from the housing project to the campus, which is a mile away.

However, the first speaker at the rally announced that the march would not take place. He said there was a concentration of federal troops and armor at Santo Tomás. "We do not believe in sterile bloodshed," he said. "We ask you to go home when this meeting is over."

The speakers used a fourth-floor balcony in the Chihuahua apartment building as their rostrum. The building, a cream-colored modern structure 13 stories high and 150 yards long, is on one side of the plaza. Across from it are the Aztec ruins.

To the right is another apartment building and vocational

school No. 7, which is participating in the strike and which has been occupied by Federal District riot policemen for 12 days. To the left is the 440-year-old colonial church of Santiago, built from stone taken from the Aztec ceremonial center, and the Foreign Ministry.

The area, which retains its Aztec name of Platelolco, is one of the most historic in Mexico. It was there that Hernán Cortés, the Spanish conquistador, fought the battle that ended Aztec resistance to the conquest.

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