

Mexican Student Protest Appears to Be Crushed

By HENRY GINIGERSpecial to The New York Times

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By HENRY GINIGER
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MEXICO CITY, Oct. 4 — The long and occasionally violent student protest here appeared today to be smashed as a mass movement following the gun battle in which at least 29 persons lost their lives Wednesday night.

At least one sniper was still trying to carry on the battle this morning. Posted inside a building housing the Social Security Institute in the area of Wednesday's clashes, he was reported to have wounded two persons until troops invaded the building. They were later seen carrying out a body, presumably that of the sniper. One of his victims later died. Aside from that incident, the area was quiet, although heavily patrolled.

Those students who could be reached on the university campus, once the major focal point of the agitation, called the clash with army troops "a massacre" and said further demonstrations would be "suicide." They said they no longer dared to use the university as an organizing center for fear of a new army occupation and acknowledged that the strike committee was now compelled to go through a period of reorganization.

Students spoke of continuing their protest in small groups. Such groups, called brigades, have been going out each day to neighborhoods and places of work in an effort to rally public support behind the student movement. It remained to be seen how well such groups could now be formed and how free they would be to carry out their work in public.

Foreign Plot Debated

Government supporters revived their talk of an outside or foreign plot against Mexico by agitators who provoked the army, by sniper fire, into shooting during a student meeting Wednesday. But eyewitness accounts of soldiers indiscriminately firing into the crowd, and the circumstances surrounding the clash, suggest to some observers a deliberate Government effort to terrorize the students into quiescence at least for the period of the Olympic Games, which open here Oct. 12 and run through the Oct. 27.

But the university students who were interviewed said that the student leadership still held to its often proclaimed denial of any intention to hurt the Olympics and asserted that the fact that the leadership was disorganized increased rather than decreased the danger of sabotage.

The reasoning was that with the strike committee in its present state, with some members dead, others wounded or in prison, and most in hiding, isolated groups with a more radical viewpoint could now step in to take advantage of the present tense atmosphere.

As if to emphasize the point made by more moderate elements, a letter was received in newspaper offices this morning warning that a "constitu-

tionist army of liberation" had been formed to wage guerrilla warfare against "the criminal government of President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz." The letter warned foreign visitors to stay away from the Olympics, saying that while the liberation army would not attack the athletes, it intended to disrupt the opening ceremonies Oct. 12.

The students interviewed spoke outside the administrative offices of the department of science, which, until the army's occupation of the campus Sept. 18, had been used for propaganda work. The offices were closed today and a sign on the door warned of the danger from gas being used to fumigate the quarters. In other departments, workmen were washing down floors and walls where once posters and signs proclaimed the students' determination to fight.

The army had covered with great pains most of the slogans that had appeared on the outside walls of buildings. The only sign of defiance was a large V-for-victory sign that appeared over the science building between two rectangles of gray paint.

'Death to the Government'

On the expressway leading to the Olympic Village, two other signs of defiance appeared. On two of the giant sculptures contributed by several countries to decorate the road, there appeared signs in red paint, one calling for "Death to the Government," the other proclaiming "Victory or Death."

The protest movement began at the end of July after clashes with policemen and soldiers, which led to student charges of government brutality and violations of the constitutional right of assembly. There had

been little disorder since the first clashes, despite four massive street demonstrations. Most of the violence began after the Army moved onto the campus in a first effort to cut off the movement at its source. Since the occupation, at least 40 persons have died and probably more.

The students have contended that there has been trouble only when policemen or army troops moved in on their meetings. The meeting Wednesday appeared peaceful, too, until troops were moved up and fir-

ing broke out, under circumstances that still are not clear. The fighting occurred in the middle of the city's biggest housing development — between a vocational school occupied by policemen, an occupation that the students were protesting, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Today, while children played on swings and slides, the area resembled an armed camp with hundreds of soldiers, armored cars, trucks and jeeps surrounding it and barring any cars from approaching.