

Olympics Chief Says Games Will Be Held

From News Dispatches

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 3—International Olympic Committee President Avery Brundage announced today the Olympic

Games would open here on schedule Oct. 12 despite last night's battle between army troops and students which left at least 25 persons dead.

Earlier today, troops searching for snipers ordered evacuations of the nine-block housing development in the area where the troops moved against antigovernment protesters. Tanks patrolled downtown streets, but there was no recurrence of major violence.

Brundage said Mexican authorities assured him "nothing will interfere with the peaceful entrance of the Olympic flame into the stadium on October 12, nor with the competitions which follow."

He added, "As guests of Mexico we have full confidence that the Mexican people, universally know for their sportsmanship and great hospitality, will join the participants and spectators in celebrating the games, a veritable oasis in a troubled world."

Brundage said none of the
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Armored cars, in photo at left, yesterday patrolled Mexico City's Plaza of Three Cultures, where at least 25 persons were killed after troops moved against student protesters. In photos in center and at right are some of those arrested. Photos by Associated Press

Olympics Are Going Ahead Despite Mexican Violence

MEXICO, From A1

demonstrations or violence was at any time directed against the Olympic Games.

Brundage's 150-word statement was delivered to reporters after a lengthy meeting of the Olympic Committee's executive board.

Rioting has shaken Mexico City since mid-July when students struck in protest against government police. The University of Mexico, site of some of the Olympic Games, was taken over by the army last month.

More than 100 persons were wounded and 500 arrested in last night's battle.

Many witnesses felt the actual number of victims was much higher than the estimates, considering the concentration of fire laid down by the army against the snipers in the crowded Plaza of three cultures and in the adjacent complex in which an estimated 80,000 persons live in low-cost high-rises.

The dead included about two dozen men and women and at least one soldier. The wounded included scores of men, women and children, as well as Gen. Jose Hernandez Toledo, who led the troops into the square in response to a plea from police, and Oriana Fallaci, an Italian woman journalist here to cover the Olympics.

Gen. Maximo Garcia Barragan, the Defense Minister, blamed the students for causing the tragedy. But some observers wondered if perhaps the military had not overreacted with excessive force.

A feeling of incomprehension permeated Mexico City in the wake of the battle, which came just after leaders of the student strike had urged the 6000 people attending an anti-government rally to go home. The crowd had gathered first to demonstrate and then to march from the Plaza to the Casco de Santo Tomas Campus of the National Polytechnic Institute, which is still occupied by army troops. Federal troops have evacuated the University of Mexico campus and the Zacatenco campus of the Polytechnic, which also had been occupied.

Leaders of the National Strike Committee informed the antigovernment militants that a larger number of soldiers in armored cars had surrounded the army-occupied campus and that a march on Santo Tomas could be dangerous.

"Go home after this rally," urged a strike leader speaking

over a loudspeaker from an apartment building balcony overlooking the Plaza. "We do not believe sterile deaths do our movement any good."

The scene thus seemed to be set for a peaceful conclusion of the protest.

The army says that some 2000 troops rushed into the Plaza after the riot police called for help. The police said snipers were shooting at them.

But some observers wondered why the troops did not simply surround the Plaza and provide cover for the police in the vocational school instead of charging into the crowd, firing as they went. Caught between the snipers and troops were 6000 men, women and children.

J. Paul Wyatt of United Press International who was in the plaza, reported:

"Soldiers appeared on all sides. The first shots whammed across the square. The troops appeared to be shooting in the air. The great crowd whined and shrieked and cried. Panic came.

"Some demonstrators fell into the ponds. Others were trampled in the stampede for escape. Now the sound of firing was almost deafening.

"All around me humans fell into heaps, wriggling and squirming together hoping to escape from the bullets.

"Women with babes in arms ran from one side to the other, vainly seeking a way through the oncoming troops. I saw at least three persons fall, wounded."

The student strike movement is based on six demands, which include disbandment of the riot police, firing of three police officials and freedom for those the students call political prisoners.

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Associated Press

Mexican soldier, silhouetted against a burning bus, fires a tear-gas pistol during fighting Wednesday night.