

# Mexico Opens the Olympics Without Incident

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MEXICO CITY, Oct. 12—

The Olympics were inaugurated here today without incident and most observers—including many dissident students—believed that the two-week Games would continue unimpeded by anti-government disorder.

The government is now united in determination to make the Games succeed, and the more radical students have been divided by the government tactics.

However, many here believe that divisive issues will rise again after the Games. Opinion is split on whether the source of disquiet will be the students or the factions within the government that have used the student

movement for their own political ends.

Probably too many changes have taken place among the students during two and a half months of strife for them to return to the status quo.

In the words of a sympathetic social science professor at the National University, "The students are radicalized but not yet fully politicized."

He explained that most of the students at the 90,000-strong National University and somewhat smaller polytechnical college complex were politically uninitiated three months ago.

But excessive police brutality, as the professor put it, in suppressing an interschool fracas in July made

the students resentful and pushed them into aggressive counteraction.

They formed a National Strike Council, composed of 250 representatives from 125 faculties—and from almost

as many degrees of ideological maturity. In general, they were excitable, open to suggestion, and almost devoid of reflection. Students recall that from the start there were extreme leftist agitators who tried to tug the majority toward violent clashes.

But with few exceptions the Strike Council maintained a disciplined front, the ideological extremes submerged in favor of the pursuit of limited demands: the dissolution of the riot police, punishment of those responsible for brutality, indemnification of aggrieved persons and repeal of a criminal code article permitting arrests for what are seen as political crimes.

The students seemed to capture the imagination of the citizenry through their massive rallies, a great silent march consistently described as awesome, and their "brigades" proselytizing among motorists and factory workers for financial and moral support.

When the government responded with new suppression, the students' response was to up the ante, to "radicalize".

But, according to the quoted professor, this so far has only set the stage for conversion of this radical temper into a coherent political platform.

Whatever the present political sophistication of Mexican students, it is deepened that has kept the Council going. And the pressure on them is to turn to the left, although the leadership of the Strike Council at this time seems moderate.

Perhaps the one thing that has kept the Council afloat is the fact that the student activists of the far left have been compromised. Several of them who were arrested have since implicated dozens of student leaders as well as national political figures in schemes to bring down the government.

A major question before confused middle-of-the-road students is whether all, or only some, of these radicals were planted in the movement by political factions.

Some of these leaders have affirmed that they saw the student unrest as a means of mounting an armed revolt leading to establishment of a Communist state.

No one can measure how widely this attitude is held. One suspects it is limited. But it is subject to constant encouragement.

Last week I met with a young medical student, a political-science major and a student teacher in the company of a lawyer defending a jailed student.

The lawyer was Jose Rojo

Coronado, who has defended Communists against government charges as well as taking on a long string of civil rights cases.

Rojo made a strong plea for his present client, who, he said, prison authorities had tortured in an effort to make him name a high government official as a source of funds for the student movement.

The lawyer quoted a clause from the constitution forbidding maltreatment of prisoners and he referred to several other pertinent clauses as well.

In the course of the evening's conversation, however, Rojo began to press openly the necessity of the students' arming themselves and preparing for the inevitable violent overthrow of the government.

To my surprise, the medical student—a pretty, clammy and likeable girl—replied: "Yes, we agree that armed conflict must come. But the people are not yet ready for it. There is still much to do."

Rojo's reply was that the people were not prepared for the Mexican revolution of 1910, either. This lawyer saw no paradox in the fact that he was defending a client by means of the constitution while at the same time he was urging destruction of that constitution.