

'Foreigners' Cited In Mexico Violence

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MEXICO CITY, Oct. 6—A statement by widely respected former President Lazaro Cardenas today lent support to the belief that the Mexican government and the student leadership have reached an understanding in the attempt to end two months of violent confrontation.

But Cardenas also added his authoritative voice to the contention that "foreign elements" were involved in the bloodiest encounter, a shoot-out Wednesday night which resulted in the deaths of at least 39 persons, according to police.

Conversations with politically aware Mexicans at all levels in the capital reveal a general unrest based on this realization:

There was much more involved in the Plaza of the Three Cultures battle Wednesday night than just a conflict between students and law enforcement officers. One of the things making politically aware Mexicans uneasy is the difficulty in finding out just what was involved.

With the number of conflicting statements growing and with public confusion increasing, it was notable that the first statement from a high-level politician came from Cardenas rather than from the incumbent President, Adolfo Diaz Ordaz.

Cardenas, 73, made this plea for conciliation: "Without causing the youth to surrender their rights, all Mexicans—through elemental patriotism—should exclude violent methods" and comport themselves in a spirit of justice and liberty.

This statement came after a press conference last night at the National University in which leaders of the student National Strike Council repudiated violence and said the students would confine their activities to the campus.

Many liberal Mexicans call Cardenas the last radical president that the country has produced. During his 1934-40

term, he nationalized U.S. oil investments here and accelerated the agrarian reform that has languished during the terms of his successors.

These credentials make him the one viable leader of the ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party who could appeal to the radicalized students.

Cardenas acknowledged the "lamentable confrontations between brothers" in the violence, but added that "anti-nationalist and foreign elements" had infiltrated and used the situation to their own advantage.

Similar statements have come from less authoritative personages than Cardenas. Like them, Cardenas would not define more precisely who the foreign elements were.

A socialist deputy in the lower house, Carlos Sanchez Cardena, was more specific, asking for an investigation into the activities of the U.S. CIA and FBI in Mexico. The deputy and the former President, to whom he is not related, would be grouped on the left of the political spectrum here.

On the other hand, Alfonso Corona del Rasal, the mayor of the capital and a member of the ruling party, explicitly suggested that foreign Communists—bent on disrupting the Olympic Games scheduled to begin here Saturday—had paid students to provoke violence.

Still another point of view came forth in a press conference given by one of the jailed members of the students' Strike Council.

The prisoner, Socrates Campos Lemus, condemned interests outside the student movement for triggering the violence in the Plaza of the Three Cultures and he named among those interests a former leader of the ruling party, Carlos Madrazo.

Madrazo lost his job after trying to instigate reforms in the party that he and other critics believe would make it more responsive to public opinion.