

# STRAFING KILLS 8 IN BOLIVIA TOWER

25 Others Are Wounded as  
Soldiers and Plane Rout

University Holdouts  
AUG 24 1971

By JUAN de ONIS

Special to The New York Times

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug. 23— Army and air force units today bombarded the central tower of the University of San Andres, where leftist students made a last stand against the anti-Marxist revolt here.

At least eight occupants of the 14-story University Tower for Students were killed and 25 were wounded, according to a check of hospitals and first-aid stations.

The bombardment overshadowed the arrival here from Lima, after seven years in exile, of Victor Paz Estenssoro, twice President of Bolivia and the chief of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, which is one of the two major political parties that backed the overthrow of Gen. Juan José Torres Gonzales, head of Bolivia's left-wing regime.

The clash, at midday, caught by surprise hundreds who had come to the center of the city in the wake of combat here Saturday and yesterday that appeared to have ended with

# 8 Bolivian Students Killed by Strafing

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

the overthrow of General Torres.

Before today's action, the Bolivian Red Cross had announced that 98 persons had been killed and nearly 600 treated for wounds. This afternoon, the Bolivian military buried 27 bodies and reported that 51 persons had been wounded.

Col. Hugo Banzer Suárez, named by the armed forces as the new President, was meeting with his Cabinet at the Presidential Palace when students began to group in streets near the university, which is centrally located.

The most aggressive student groups stood in front of four armored cars guarding the university entrance. They chanted "Cuba, Cuba" and "Rifles and bullets, glory to Che Guevara" while soldiers leaned on their mounted machine guns.

A mediating commission authorized by the Presidential Palace was formed. It included the Most Rev. Andres Kennedy, Auxiliary Archbishop of La Paz, two representatives of the diplomatic corps and delegates from the university's professorial and student ranks.

They obtained authorization for an inspection team to enter the university tower and look for student leaders supposedly hiding in the upper floors. These reportedly included leaders of the outlawed National Liberation Army, a student-based group that has carried out guerrilla operations in the past three years.

When the army withdrew the

armored cars and troops to allow the inspection committee to enter, hundreds of students rushed into the building.

The troops rushed back to their positions. After a tense pause, an air force P-51 appeared over the city's metal roofs and strafed the upper stories of the tower three times. Simultaneously, the armored cars began firing .50-caliber machine guns and 20-mm. recoilless rifles at the building.

Flashes of weapon fire could be seen from the upper floors. From the rear of the university, troops charged into the building.

A diplomat said that more than 200 students were marched out, hands over their heads. They were taken two blocks to a building of the Ministry of Interior where witnesses said the students, including some girls, were struck with gun butts.

## 4 Wounded a Block Away

A lieutenant of the Lanzas Regiment, which carried out the ground operation, said four students were wounded a block from the university after they disregarded an order to disperse.

Red Cross vehicles removed three wounded from the main entrance. At the central first aid station, a doctor said that five students had arrived dead and that 15 others who were wounded were treated in a half-hour period after the shooting subsided.

Beside the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, the other party is the Bolivian Socialist

Falange, which was for many years bitterly opposed to the movement, but which has now joined forces behind the anti-Marxist military.

Mr. Paz Estenssoro, carried on the shoulders of followers in a turbulent welcome from 2,000 people, exhorted the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement to "forget the past" and work with the armed forces, "a factor of national cohesion," and the Falange, "our loyal enemies of yesterday."

Support of the movement and the Falange for the military was one of Colonel Banzer's principal objectives over the past six months during which he organized the uprising in secrecy here, in Lima, where Mr. Paz Estenssoro was in exile, and in Buenos Aires.

This military-civic front also obtained the backing of important business sectors here. Those sectors viewed with growing uneasiness the radical policies that were adopted by General Torres under pressure from the left-wing labor and student groups.

## U.S. Watching Bolivia

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (Reuters)—The State Department said today that the United States was studying developments in Bolivia, but the department declined comment on possible recognition of the new military government. Robert McCloskey, the departmental spokesman, said it has been a practice of the United States not to make an automatic response to the overthrow of governments.

Continued on Page 2, Column 4