

REBELS IN BOLIVIA CRUSH RESISTANCE AND INSTALL CHIEF

Colonel Assumes Presidency
as Torres Flees — Over
70 Killed in Fighting

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LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug. 22—

An anti-Communist grouping of military and civilian leaders today crushed the last resistance from supporters of Gen. Juan José Torres Gorzales, the head of Bolivia's left-wing Government.

Col. Hugo Banzer Suárez, the principal organizer of the rebellion, assumed the presidency by decision of the military high command.

More than 70 persons died and nearly 200 were wounded in heavy fighting that ended early today with General Torres and his principal supporters fleeing into hiding or asylum.

The conflict ended a 10-month-old regime that has been hostile to the United States and has opened Bolivia to strong Soviet influence.

Government Moved Left

General Torres seized power Oct. 7 with the support of union and student groups that have pushed the Government steadily into more radical actions.

These included the ouster of the Peace Corps and the nationalization without compensation of mining properties owned by interests in the United States. Domestic policies of the Government were considered harmful by Bolivian private enterprise.

Colonel Banzer, who is 47 years old, appeared on a balcony at the Presidential Palace overlooking Plaza Murillo and told a crowd of about 5,000 people:

"I don't offer you anything, and maybe I will demand a lot."

A Call for Unity

In the short speech, he called for unity between the Bolivian military forces and the political parties, which have been outlawed under the Torres regime, in order to strengthen the economy "on the basis of work and sacrifice."

Colonel Banzer was preceded on the balcony by the new commander in chief of the Army, Gen. Remberto Iriarte, and by leaders of the two major non-leftist political parties, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement and the Bolivian Socialist Falange.

Trucks carrying members of both parties backing the revolt rolled through the central streets this sunny Sunday morning.

Spectators made "V for Vic-

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Associated Press

Col. Hugo Banzer Suarez

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tory" signs as the demonstrators shouted "Death to Communism!" and "Long live the nationalist revolution!"

Banzer Was Exiled

The uprising to oust General Torres had been in the making since last January when Colonel Banzer was dismissed as director of the military college and sent into exile in Argentina.

The rebellion began at the Santa Cruz army garrison in eastern Bolivia a few hours after Colonel Banzer, who had returned secretly to the country, was arrested in that city. The revolt was joined by the important Cochabamba and Oruro garrisons.

The decisive hour for General Torres came last night after the loyal Colorados Presidential Guard Battalion and armed miners and students attacked the Castrillo Regiment guarding the army high command.

Shortly after dark, the Tarapaca Regiment sent ar-

mored cars down from the heights above the city while the Lanzas Regiment, based in Guachi, moved into the lower city.

The pincer movement forced General Torres to abandon the Presidential Palace and gave needed reinforcements to the Castrillo Regiment, which had been driven off a high ridge dominating the center of the city by leftist commandos at nightfall.

University Tower Strafed

This fighting at Lakaicota Ridge caused the heaviest casualties, but there were many civilians killed or wounded in the crowded streets. Among those killed was a Canadian priest, the Rev. Maurice LeFebvre, who went to the aid of a wounded person, and a Red Cross nurse, killed by a sniper.

The small Bolivian air force, equipped with two P-51 fighters and two armed observation planes, also turned against General Torres.

Early this morning, while church bells rang in this old

highland city, a P-51 strafed the 14-story tower of the San Andrés University, while armored cars and a company of rebel troops occupied the student stronghold.

They found a small stock of automatic weapons, a bazooka, and home-made fire bombs. But there was no resistance. Student commandos, who were active in yesterday's fighting, had vanished as had hundreds of miners who were given arms.

All resistance ended when rebel army units drove the Colorados battalion back to its headquarters after a sharp fight.

A few hours later, the last military unit loyal to General Torres surrendered. Earlier, Gen. Luis Reque Teran, commander in chief of the army until this morning, was wounded in the leg and an aide was killed when Colorados troops opened fire as the general tried to exhort them to lay down their arms.

After being sworn in as President in the presence of the army high command, Colonel Banzer installed a Cabinet that included Col. Andres Selich, who led the uprising in Santa Cruz, as Minister of Interior.

Mario Gutierrez, the main representative of the Bolivian

Socialist Falange, was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, Victor Paz Estenssoro, a former President, is expected to return here from exile in Peru early next week. A party spokesman said he would not take a post in the Government but would be an adviser.