

Mexico: Anatomy Of A 'Student Crisis'

MEXICO

The nightmare of "1968" is returning to Mexico. On June 20 a union of workers and faculty at the National University (UNAM) went on strike and occupied the university buildings. The country's most reactionary forces threw millions of dollars into a high-powered propaganda campaign and special TV classroom programming in support of the right wing rector Soberon. After more than two weeks of increasing tensions, the strikers drew 100,000 supporters to an evening rally July 6; at dawn the next morning President Jose Lopez Portillo ordered unarmed police units to take over the campus. Support strikes are now being organized throughout the country.

Such was the pattern in 1968, when a summer-long series of provoked student marches and strikes culminated in the infamous "Tlatelolco" massacre on the eve of the Mexican Olympic Games. Several hundred students were killed and the right wing launched repressive actions nation-wide. The current situation has not yet reached a "Tlatelolco" but is firmly locked on such a confrontation course unless the government takes extraordinary action to defuse the crisis. Sources high in the reactionary Monterrey Group of businessmen are reported to have warned the President that he must move to smash the strike or there will be "loss of confidence" in his government — a message tantamount to a coup threat.

How has this happened? It has nothing to do with "independent" student and right-wing forces which mysteriously clash. The progressive wing of the government and many outside observers know that the "student crises" in Mexico, as in many other countries, are fabricated events designed to turn the country to a repressive course and destroy those forces committed to national development.

This was case in 1968. when the Monterrey Group helped finance the "ultra left" provocateurs in the ranks of the students and insured that "left-right" polarization destroyed any ground for compromise.

It is the case today. As detailed below, there is no independent "student" movement; there is only a history of contrived confrontation run on the right by Monterrey and terrorist networks connected to Interpol's Black International; on the "left," by operatives of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies and related terrorist and "Eurocommunist" networks.

In the middle are thousands of duped students who are simply cannon fodder for the agents' provocations.

The key element of the modus operandi is to raise spurious "university" issues which deflect and sabotage serious debate over national and international policy. The real issues which must be discussed center on how Mexico can shake off the IMF restrictions and reassert the progressive development policies of former president Echeverria, now Mexican ambassador to UNESCO. The Lopez government has on several occasions indicated a commitment to continue Echeverria's basic orientations. Lopez has recently blasted both President Carter's "illegals" program (see box on page 2) and the

Echeverría: World Needs Scientific Revolution

The following are excerpts from the frontal attack on Carter's Third World policy delivered June 28 by former Mexican president Luis Echeverria at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

I would say, looking at those supposedly scientific documents and studies which predict the end of non-renewable resources, that they are nothing but a false ideology...in the service of those self-same interests which have based their wealth on the looting and waste of the earth's resources. Today, those interests would like to establish a supra-scientific monopoly over all of the new sources of energy, and over all of the new alternatives which science will provide...

If new forms of energy, if new human resources once again become the wealth of a minority of peoples, the 21st century will inevitably be the arena of a possible atomic holocaust.

The solution to the problem does not lie, as infantile radicalism would have it, in the utopia of a statistically equal division of the world's wealth. The true answer is the rational use of material resources, human resources, and scientific knowledge as the qualitative and revolutionary instruments of change...

It is useless to think, in desperation, of sterilization of populations. We must think in human, scientific and rational terms, of a qualitative transformation of people's lives which will get at the very roots of populations growth. Those roots are nothing other than underdevelopment...

I would ask here, for a scientific revolution which would call together workers who have organized their intelligence in the service of the world's populations and not of an irrational system wielded against the very essence of scientific reason.