

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 Echeverría 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.

IMF's \$3 billion borrowing ceiling for Mexican development projects, which Lopez branded a "lock" on the country's progress in a June 30 press conference.

The Friedmanites in Mexico's rightwing and their international monetarist patrons know they face a singular problem in Mexico: a working class and peasantry capable of being mobilized around the principles of the Mexican Revolution. The "student scenario" is their only weapon powerful enough to sabotage this mass-based resistance to Chileanization.

The government has clearly and correctly perceived that the student scenario can be defeated only by injecting real politics onto the campus. With this in mind, the government of Lopez Portillo moved forthrightly in early April to launch a major program of "political reform." The government's proposals were designed to pull currently unregistered left parties into debate on national policy and create the basis for mass mobilization in defense of national development goals. In May the government, through the governing PRI party, explicitly proposed that all political parties be given free rein to organize in the universities, to break up the hot-house atmosphere of "campus politics" and integrate the university into national development tasks.

If the progressives in the governments are now to save the situation, they must move ruthlessly to enforce this perspective. They must jail the agents on the "left" and the right, and proceed immediately to take on the fight against the IMF with the same deadly seriousness as Monterrey and its agents have promoted their criminal "student" scenario.

El Nacional: To Know The Trap Is To Begin Taking It Apart

The government-linked daily El Nacional published the following front-page editorial July 1, expanding on President Lopez Portillo's June 30 attack on the International Monetary Fund.

The inflexibility of the financial policy of the developed countries is explained by the fact that they look to the recovery of their money more than to the role of their money in world development. Mexico has posed this problem in various international meetings, as one of the many problems which originate with the survival of the mental and administrative structures which do not correspond to the demands of our times. The logic of the situation dictates urgent modifications; it's an absurd thing — with dramatic consequences — that the countries which have to pay are deprived of the necessary elements to generate the wealth to meet their payments. But when the trap is known and one has studied how it works, the possibility of destroying it is at hand.

Portillo: Illegals An Economic, Not A Police Problem

The following are excerpts from an interview with Mexican President José López Portillo, published in the July 4 edition of U.S. News and World Report, in which the Mexican President strongly assails the Carter Administration's policy on Mexican illegals — a policy based on police rather than economic measures.

Q: Mr. President, why are so many Mexicans fleeing your country and illegally entering the United States?

A: They aren't fleeing; they are looking for jobs. They seek work outside of Mexico because they can't find decent jobs here.

Q: Is your government trying to slow this down?

A: We have told American officials that illegal migration is related directly to our country's economic situation. We have pointed out to them that illegal migration to the U.S. will end when we solve Mexico's economic problems, when we create enough jobs here at home...

Mexico suffers from a major negative balance of trade with the U.S. But if American would but more from us than it does now — and we do have a lot more to sell — that would create jobs in Mexico.

Then my people wouldn't have to cross the border to seek jobs in the United States.

Q: What about Mexico's Army and police? Are they trying to stop illegal emigration?

A: Forget about police measures. They do not help — and never will help. These people aren't criminals. They are ordinary people looking for jobs...

Q: Why don't you close the border?

A: I don't believe I can or should close it. That would be no solution...

Our two countries have a mutual economic relationship that requires people to move from one side of the border to the other. The fact that part of this movement is not properly documented does not mean that we should end the healthy relationship. Closing the border would only cause harm...

Q: Would punishing American employers who hire illegal workers discourage Mexicans from entering the U.S.?

A: Possibly, but we are dealing with an economic, not a police, problem. As long as there are jobs for workers in the U.S. people will be attracted there, and employers will accept the risk of hiring illegals...