

2 February 1993



The Mexico Newsletter

Directorate of Intelligence

PRI Hardliners Gain in Cabinet Shuffle

Although Mexican political pundits had predicted a round of Cabinet moves in early 1993, most believed Salinas would make changes only to bring some key advisers into the Cabinet. To their surprise, Salinas replaced the Secretary of Government, who oversees internal security and elections, and the Attorney General. These changes, together with a shuffling of key appointments in the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), suggest that Salinas is strengthening his control over domestic politics well before campaigning begins for national elections in 1994.

The new Government Secretary, Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido, is a former governor of Chiapas

Other changes also reflect Salinas's intention to exert tighter control over domestic politics. Paredes's predecessor, Arturo Nunez, takes over as director of the Federal Electoral Institute, which controls key functions in national elections. Meanwhile, another official from Chiapas--well-known for his genius at getting votes for the PRI will become responsible for electoral affairs under Secretary Gonzalez.

Salinas appointed Jorge Carpizo, the well-respected head of the Mexican Human Rights Commission, to become the new Attorney General. Carpizo, who has a reputation for integrity, is credited with persistence in investigating human rights violations by police during the past two

Inside:	
Coming Events.....	2
Political Developments.....	3
Security Situation.....	3
	4

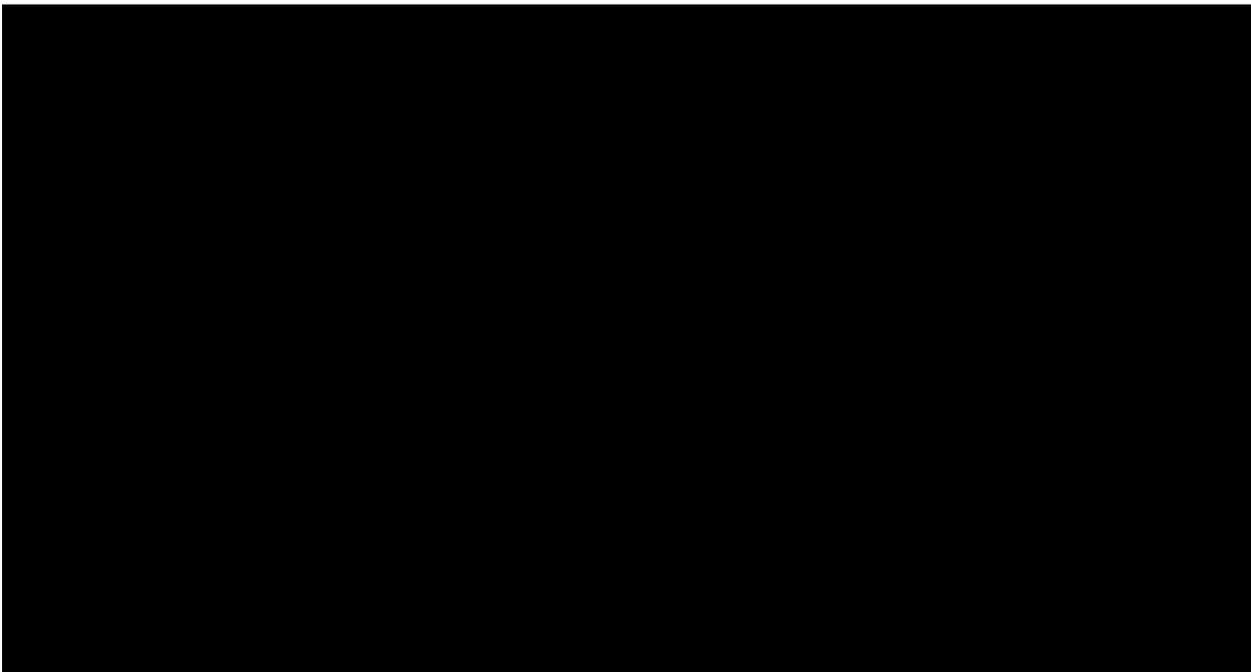
years. His appointment signals that Mexico City will be more sensitive to--and perhaps more responsive to--international criticism of its human rights record. [REDACTED]



Meanwhile, Salinas's replacement of the Secretary of Energy, Mines, and State Industries with one of his closest confidants, Emilio Lozoya Thalmann, widens the field of politicians seeking the PRI presidential nomination in 1994. Lozoya's appointment to the Cabinet gives him the opportunity to prove his political talents before jockeying among presidential aspirants begins in earnest later this year. Lozoya's chances to get the nod from Salinas could dim, however, if other touted contenders--especially Mexico City mayor Matuel Camacho Solis and Social Security Institute director Emilio Gamboa Patron--receive Cabinet appointments later this year, as is widely speculated. [REDACTED]

Coming Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 7 February | Gubernatorial, state legislative, and municipal elections in Baja California Sur |
| 21 February | Gubernatorial, state legislative, and municipal elections in Guerrero, Hidalgo, and Quintana Roo. |
| 19-21 February | Attorney General Carpizo attends the Central American Antinarcotic Summit in Belize. |



Political Developments

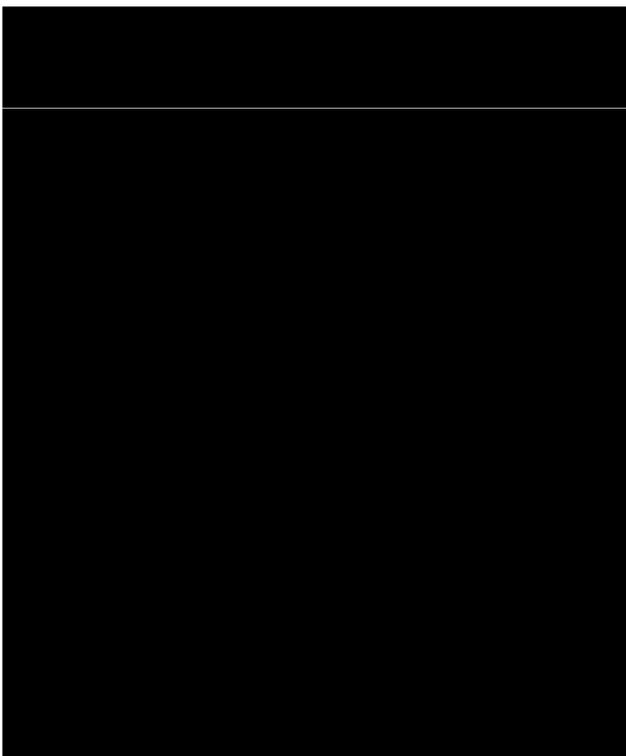
New violence erupted following disputed municipal elections in southern Mexico. The ruling party, while focusing on creating more effective organizational groupings, [REDACTED]

Postelection violence in Oaxaca and Michoacan since December has left several dead and many wounded; more confrontations between opposition militants and police are likely,

[REDACTED] The violence resulted from efforts by government security forces and ruling party officials to dislodge leftist opposition demonstrators from municipal buildings that they had taken over to protest vote fraud in recent local elections. In Michoacan, a Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD) stronghold, state officials have forcibly displaced the PRD from at least five townhalls,

[REDACTED] Although Mexico City has declared that state authorities are to resolve electoral disputes, PRD leaders have organized marches to the Federal District from Oaxaca and Michoacan to highlight their grievances and to hold talks with newly appointed Government Undersecretary Paredes. The violence is likely to spill over to elections in Guerrero scheduled for 21 February unless a compromise is reached soon. [REDACTED]

The PRI will unveil plans [REDACTED] for restructuring the party to broaden its membership, [REDACTED] The party's three traditional corporatist sectors—peasants, organized labor, and an amalgam of bureaucrats, technicians, and middle-class voters known as the popular sector—will be integrated into six distinct units within the party. One of these clusters, the Union Movement, will organize labor groups not already part of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, the PRI's formal labor arm. Other groups will attempt to capture issue-oriented voters who have shied away from PRI membership in the past. [REDACTED]



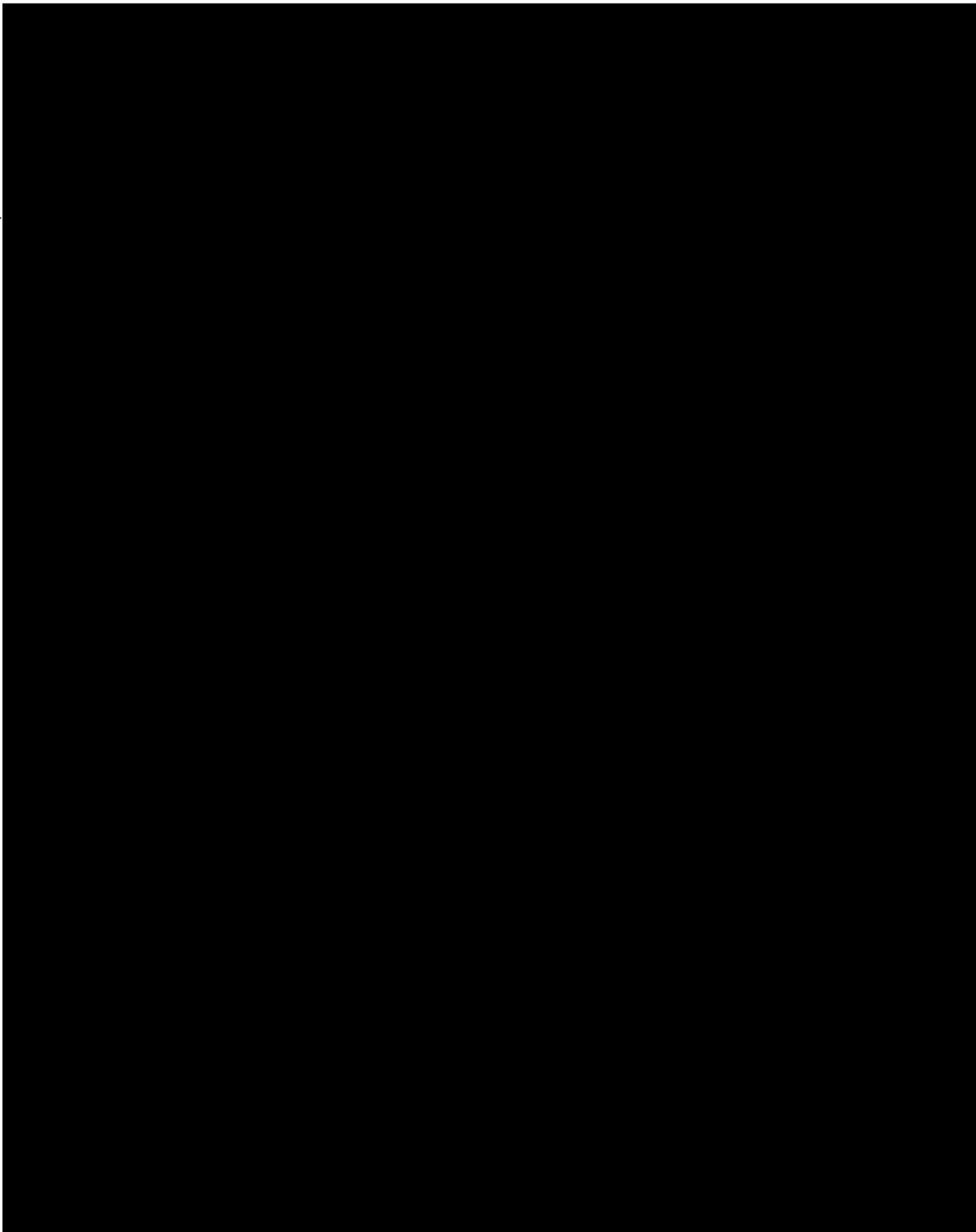
Security Situation

The National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH)—the government's premier human rights organization—has exonerated the military High Command of alleged complicity in a high-profile case of human rights abuse. According to Mexican press, the CNDH ruled last month that enlisted soldiers who burned homes and tortured Chihuahua Indians in October were not under orders from their superiors. The military was found to have properly investigated the matter, charged the appropriate soldiers, and reimbursed the victims. The military's prompt and open investigation probably has bouyed its checkered image with the Mexican public. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~
NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON

The Mexico Newsletter

February 1993



4
~~NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON~~
~~SECRET~~