

STUDENTS STAGE MAJOR DISORDERS IN MEXICO

The disorders that began in Mexico City on 26 July are a classic example of the Communists' ability to divert a peaceful demonstration into a major riot. Technical students protesting police intervention in a student problem several days previously were agitated by Communist youths out celebrating the Castro revolution. The result was a wild confrontation with police during which many injuries and much property damage occurred.

Student zeal to continue the campaign against police brutality and authority in general erupted into a second, more serious, and apparently spontaneous manifestation early on 30 July. Harsh police methods designed to break up a student fight apparently precipitated a general rampage of secondary school students that soon became uncontrollable. The federal paratroopers who were called in to restore order roughed up several hundred youths and broke into university-connected schools, thereby violating university autonomy.

Mounting student grievances over police treatment in the current crisis are aggravating the poor relationship between the students and the government. The Diaz Ordaz administration has been confronted with a continuing series of student strikes

over a variety of local issues for the past three years. Demonstrations of sympathy and support for their student comrades in Mexico City by provincial youth groups may preclude an early solution to the present situation. Two students are reported dead in the Mexican Gulf state of Tabasco in the wake of a student-police fray, and student rioting has occurred in Jalapa, the capital of Veracruz.

The administration has made good on Diaz Ordaz' warning several weeks ago to leading Communists that the government would hold them culpable for any disruption of order prior to or during the Olympics. The government's immediate response to the first outbreak on the 26th, which was [redacted] Communist-incited, was to arrest a number of prominent Communists.

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The Communist Party's concern that its youth groups would create disturbances. Although the government claims to have solid evidence that the Communist Party engineered the fracas on 26 July and reportedly has indications of Soviet Embassy complicity, it is unlikely that the Soviets would so undermine their carefully nurtured good relations with the Mexicans. [redacted]