MEXICO TODAY  

by North American Congress on Latin America/Box 57, Cathedral Station, N.Y. 10025.

The cry "Viva la Revolución!" in Mexico today comes from the very government whose army and police massacred several hundred students, supporters and onlookers during a peaceful demonstration in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas on October 2, 1968. It is the same repressive government that "looked the other way" when a dozen students were murdered and many others injured by the paramilitary "Falcons" as they left the National Polytechnic Institute on June 10, 1971. The "Falcons" had arrived in grey vans of the same type used by the riot squads...with their license plates covered. They carried placards with the picture of Che Guevara, and shouted his name to confuse the students as they attacked!

Although the dictator Porfirio Díaz was finally overthrown at the cost of more than a million lives, in spite of countless campaigns in the 1910-17 period in the name of bringing democracy and land-reform to Mexico, the ruling class continues to hold the working class and peasants in the iron grip of fear and unspeakable poverty. Only a semblance of opposition is tolerated at the polls. The "revolutionary" rhetoric is designed to disguise the situation so that the institutionalized Revolutionary Party and its business partners in the U.S. can continue their rape of the national resources. While the gross national product continues to grow, the misery of the people who produce the wealth becomes even more apparent.

The population has steadily risen as well, but with the exception of a few highly-skilled workers, the blue-collars, domestics, clerks and farmworkers have been left out of the distribution of wealth, old or new. The peasants, the children and grandchildren of Zapata and Villa, still live in the most devastating poverty, while the urban middle-class heirs of the betrayed revolution enjoy American-style life with cars, clothing and cafés, plus the money to spend on imported luxuries or travel abroad.
The size of the bureaucracy can be guessed by the popular saying, "If you aren't on the government payroll, you just aren't living right." Primary and secondary schools are federally controlled, and teachers work for the government, with the attendant privileges such as their own health insurance-clinic-hospital system, discount pharmacies and groceries, and access to low-rent public housing. Not only that, if one has a friend "higher up," it is possible to take a leave of absence at full pay and work at another job, take a vacation or study abroad—under government scholarship, of course. The contrast here is sharp, the imbalances so extreme, that the use of tricks with words has worn thin. Revolts have begun in several sectors of the population. Insurgency in the trade-unions against entrenched officials has resulted in at least temporary closures of union halls, by force of worker's arms. The railroad workers, supporters of Demetrio Vallejo, have led the way. The peasants have produced new leaders from among their numbers. Ruben Jaramillo Rojas (killed in February, 1972) is but one of these. Vazquez Rojas had organized the Civic Association in the state of Guerrero, which employed illegal strikes, by force of worker's arms. The government responded with violence and persecution. Finding his family in 1964) and Genaro Vazquez Rojas (killed in February, 1972) are but one region against another hereditary agribusinesses. Attempts to play off one region against another have failed when the repressive violence reached genocidal proportions in certain places, exposing the nature of the ruling class and forcing the disparate peasant groups to draw together for survival.

The student movement of 1968 had won widespread support among the people, and the government feared another situation like the one in France earlier that year. As when Chicago's Mayor Daley had his police brutally break up demonstrations around the Democratic Convention in the U.S., the use of excessive force against the secondary students culminated in a demonstration to a major challenge of authority. After more than 400 people were massacred in the Plaza in Mexico City, another 300 students, professors, journalists, and others spent two years and more in prisons so that President Diaz Ordaz could show "who is boss." On taking office in 1970, the new president, Echeverrfa, released most of these people, without granting official amnesty or dropping the charges against them. This "goodwill gesture" thus cost him nothing and helped his image as he took over the governmental reins.

The six demands formulated after the October 2, 1968 massacre are as follows:
1. Abrogation of Articles 145 and 145a of the Penal Code (created in WW II to curb "pro-fascist" subversion) which had established the vaguely defined crime of "social dissolution" punishable by law.
2. Release of all political prisoners.
3. Dismissal of Gen. Cueto Ramfrez and Gen. Mendilea, Chief and Deputy chief of Police, respectively, of Mexico City, considered directly responsible for the repression.
4. A thorough investigation into responsibility for the repression among public officials, and delineation of the roles played by the Mayor of Mexico City and the Secretary of State (L. Echeverrfa Alvarez), both prospective candidates for the presidency at the time.
5. Disbandment of the riot squad, "Los Grenaderos."
6. Indemnification of all families of those killed and injured.

After these demands have been answered? "Social dissolution" is no longer a crime; but the government has no trouble finding other civil charges to level against people arrested for political reasons. Most of the political prisoners of 1968 have been released (see above) and the public officials in question have played musical chairs so that they no longer occupy the same offices. None of them was ever officially blamed in any case. The Grenaderos are still freely cracking heads. None of the families have been indemnified, and instead, stories have been spread that if they keep their mouths shut they might recover the ashes of their loved ones.

Since 1968, unrest continues on all sides. The basic demands of the people cannot be met under the present system of blinding the national economy for the benefit of an elite clique and foreign interests. The Mexican oligarchy and their relatively crude methods of suppression make it all too easy to see who is keeping the country from attaining its true revolution. These songs are part of the struggle to take up where the pioneers left off, to build a strong and united people's movement that can achieve a Mexico truly for the Mexicans, which can take its rightful place among great and free nations ruled by its own people. 

Viva la revoluci6n Mexicana!

WHO IS JUDITH REYES?

She is a woman of the people. Her life began with the poor of the rural south, and in the streets of the big cities, selling little things to survive. She has worked and struggled with her people, and earned the right to rejoice in their victories. And her songs are about this life. "I like to write our history in my songs. I include statistics as well as the words of my people."

She is a passionate person, and a partisan one. Her songs have the urgency of the daily news, and she sings as she speaks—in every day language, so that everyone will understand. She uses traditional forms, the corrido and the copla, forms familiar to workers and students and peasants. Her songs speak of things she has seen and experienced in the small town and the countryside. She knows the land ruined for farming by the North American chemical industries who dump their wastes far upstream... a gift from those "good neighbors" who mouth words about ecology and are angry too at her own people who still believe the myth of "agrarian reform."

Her songs speak of her own youth, selling papers in the streets of Mexico City, and her identification with the students today who are suffering harsh political repression. She says, "I was there. I saw Tlatelolco at 6:00 pm that afternoon."

Judith has run for the Senate in her state, as candidate, and as candidate suffered insults and lies. Her husband has been in the prison of Lecumberri since 1968. Her few records have been suppressed and now banned. These days she herself has to live abroad, and we have been unable (for any more timely information about herself)

Judith is a mature woman whose entire life has been spent in helping create and spread people's culture through songs, and yet she is barely known among the middle-class intellectuals of her own country. Her real fame is among the peasants and working people, the people she lives to serve. We are proud to make this music available and hope that it will lead the listener to seek further information about the real situation in the state of Mexico in these times. As North Americans, we see this as a solemn responsibility.

All of the songs in this record were composed by Judith Reyes, The translations were written by Barbara Dane, who wishes to thank Rafael Rodriguez for his generous assistance.

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MEXICO'S ECONOMIC PICTURE:

Income distribution in Mexico is as unjust as it was before the revolution that broke out in 1910, when income per inhabitant was 800 pesos annually, and the parity of the Mexican peso with the dollar was at two to one. Today, 60 years later, despite the high cost of living and the fact that parity with the dollar is 12 pesos to 1, the income per inhabitant is barely 2,000 pesos a year ($160).

On the one hand: (from official figures)

More than 50% suffer from malnutrition
More than 8 million eat no meat, fish, milk or eggs
More than 10 million eat no bread
Nearly 11 million are illiterate
10 million workers are unorganized
1 million speak only native dialects
2 million are landless peasants
Between 1948-57, 4 1/2 million
5 million families have a monthly income of less than $80
5 million have no shoes
12 1/2 million seldom can wear them
24 million people live with no running water

In the other hand: (from official figures)

Guerrilllas advance in Mexico

By Fred Ryan

The Guardian, March 8, 1972

Guerrilla fighting and working class insurgencies are spreading throughout Mexico.

The government press admits three zones of guerrilla fighting: Guerrero (with 25,000 soldiers engaged at the end of 1971), Chihuahua and Chiapas.

In the railway, electrical and teachers unions now has the army occupying locals in Guadalajara, Monterrey and the state of Veracruz. Urban insurgency has broken out with political kidnappings, bank robberies and student actions in the capitals Guadalajara, Monterrey, Acapulco, Chihuahua and Mazatlan.

The strongest revolutionary thrust is centered in the state of Guerrero — old homeland of Mexico's War of Independence and the revolution of 1910. There, the reform political movement of the 1950s (which ended in the copra workers massacre of 1962) has grown into the reform political movement of the 1970s. The Alliance for Progress (with John F. Kennedy's promise, "No later than October of '63 we will have resolved the problem") has turned the land to salt. Ay, ay!

4,000 hectares of good land are turning into salt. 300,000 Mexican people are already starving because the river's waters spiked by the U.S. with a little dash of "Friendship" have turned the land to salt. Ay, ay!

On the 24th of June, 1962, just to dazzle my people,

John F. Kennedy promised, "No later than October of '63 we will have resolved the problem."

Kennedy makes his offer in perfect English.

Ay, ay!

The Alliance for Progress will lend us Yankee capital, and Yankee technicians to combat the salinity. First, they create the problem. Then they offer a gringo loan at exorbitant interest!

Ay, ay!

What Mexican suffers, it's a political aggression of Yankee imperialism on our frontier. And Mexico's people, the Indians, are not to blame. I am to blame, because I think the gringo is the "Good Neighbor" that God has sent me!

Ay, ay!
CORRIDO
(Corrido of Arturo Gamez)

muy presente tengo yo
ano del sesenta y cinco
El ventitrés de septiembre
una esperanza rural.

On the 23rd of September,
it is very clear in my mind
of the year 1965,
this happened in Madera.
It was almost dawn,
and the barracks shook
with the arrival of Arturo Gamiz
and the men he had chosen.

He carried a good rifle,
a military carbine,
a grenade in one hand,
and was confident of victory.
Revolutionary anger
made his heart pound,
because "Agrarian Reform"
was a sick national joke.

Arturo Gamiz told the peasants,
"They will never give you this land
through legal channels.
If the land was seized
by Borunda and Aleman's men,
grab your own gun and fight,
like the Gaetans fight!"

The soldiers pursued him,
but Arturo disarmed them.
Two times, I heard,
he stripped them naked.
Jiner, the little governor,
really got fed up with him,
because his cause was just,
and because Arturo
was more of a man than Jiner!

The concessions that were made
through Trouyet by the Alemanistas,
to exploit the forests of Chihuahua,
Look at that!
How the people here are left without
land,
and the Trouyets never stop exploiting
the Tarahumara and the Pima.

Ya no los perseguiran!
Adiós Emilio y Antonio,
y el que no supe quién fue,
!Arturo Gámiz no ha muerto
y ustedes saben porqué!

Side 1, Band 3:
CORRIDO DE SANTO DOMINGO (3:35)
(The peasants of Sanchez Lozoya)

Voy a cantar el corrido
de los campos de Chihuahua
tierra de Santo Domingo
Municipio Villa Ahumada.

Es el de los campesinos
Frente División del Norte
que preferien su parcela
no andan tras de un pasaporte.

El Departamento Agrario
hizo más por ese gringo
que fuera el latifundista*
dueno de Santo Domingo.

Por eso Sánchez Lozoya
ordenó invadir la hacienda:
si nos echan cocolazos.
pararemos lo que venga.

Uno que otro se ha rajado
y es por culpa de la tropa,
tropa de la Quinta Zona
que no respeto ni zoca.

Son las armas de la Patria
en contra de los campesinos,
as mujeres, los ancianos
y como trescientos niños.

And that's why Pablo Gomez
could no longer stay behind.
He soon went to the mountains,
never to return.
Pablo died with Arturo,
in the attack on that barrack.
His little rifle
wasn't quite big enough
for a cause as big as his.

Goodbye, Pablo Gomez,
Goodbye, Salomon Gaitan,
Goodbye, Valdivia and Quinones.
They won't chase you anymore.
Adios, Emilio and Antonio,
And all the others whose names
I don't know,
Arturo Gaminz will never die,
And you know why!

I am going to sing the corrido
of the outskirts of Chihuahua,
the district of Santo Domingo,
the municipality of Villa Ahumado.

It's about these farmers
of the Northern Front Division
who would rather work their piece
of land than go looking for a passport.

The Agrarian Department
did so much to help the gringos
become the latifundistas*
that they now 'own' Santo Domingo!

That's why Sanchez Lozoya
ordered us to invade the hacienda:
"If they try to throw us out,
we will stop whatever's coming!"

Some of the farmers backed out,
for fear of the troops
of the Fifth Region,
known to stop at nothing.

They are the arms of our nation,
thrown against our own farmers,
women and old folks,
and maybe three hundred children.
Acudimos a Borunda y en el nombre de su madre le pedimos una ayuda para no morirnos de hambre.

Solamente conseguimos el rigor de los soldados. Ay! señor Gobernador, no sean tan aprovechados!

Linda bente de Parral linda la Ciudad de Júarez nos trajeron alimentos a pesar de los pesares.

Y la ayuda que nos mandan es del pueblo solamente, mientras el gobierno aprieta con su ejército indecente.

Ano del sesenta y uno, en la prensa se lea la reparticion de tierras que López Mateos hacía.

Pero solo eran noticias lejos de las realidades, porque la Reforma Agraria es demagogia en can tidades.

Para proteger las tierras de tantos latifundistas el gobierno hizo un tratado con esos imperialistas.

Ahora exportamos braceros para el capataz texano y sacamos de su tierra al campesino mexicano.

Por eso Sánchez Lozoya rechazaba el pasaporte que Borunda le ofreciera pa' que se fuera pal' norte.

Si he de cultivar la tierra ha de ser como agrarista, es mi lucha campesina contra del latifundista.

We went for help to Borunda. In the name of his dead mother, we asked for help, so as not to die of hunger.

The only thing he gave us was the boots of his soldiers. Oh, señor Governor, don't take advantage of our misery!

Good people of Paral, good city of Juarez, they brought food to our people, even though it was forbidden!

Any help we can get comes from the people. The government just chokes us, with their obscene army.

The year of 1961, in the press one reads, "The land distribution made by Lopez Mateos..." But that was just a press release, a long way from reality, because Agrarian Reform is a ton of demagoguery!

To protect the holdings of all the latifundistas, the government made a treaty with those imperialists.

Now they export farmworkers for the Texas foreman, which takes away from his land the Mexican farmworker!

For this, Sanchez Lozoya kept on rejecting the passport that Borunda offered him so he'd go up North!

If we cultivate the land, let it be as landed farmers. That's my struggle as a peasant against those latifundistas!*

*latifundistas - large land-holders, agribusiness

Side 1, Band 4:

LOS NIÑOS TRABAJADORES (3:40)
(Corrido of the Working Children)

Yo recuerdo muy bien que muy niño empecé a trabajar cerca de Palacio, yo le daba grasa a la burocracia de esta gran ciudad.

El niño pobre capitalino que a los camiones sube a cantar no es vago, es un pobre niño para el que no hay protección social.

Cuidando carros, vendiendo chiches, ¿Quién les ha creado esta situación? ¡Digan si no es este mal gobierno Y su caduca revolución!

Hoy Don Miguel Alemán nos llena con sus turistas la capital quiere que vean a los niños pobres como folklore de la gran ciudad.

El Presidente habla de progreso porque otro préstamo consiguió a él no le importa ver que con eso la independencia la hipotecó.

Condecorada Primera Dama das desayunos de pudrición y d'un te sientes benefactora de la niñez di mi corazón.

Aunque Uruchurtu llene de flores y de palacios la capital quién va a negar que los niños pobres trabajan duro en la gran ciudad.

Yes, I remember very well I went to work when I was small, near the National Palace making things easy for them, the bureaucracy of this big city.

I grew up just like you, on the streets of the capital, selling the "Extras" and sometimes the tickets of the so-called National Lottery.

If there was an effective law that protected our children, there would not be a hundred thousand on the streets begging for bread, time and time again.

The poor children from the capital, begging on the busses by singing their songs, are not lazy, but children of the poor, for whom there is no social protection.

Looking after people's cars, selling chewing gum, who has created this situation? It's this damn government, and its outmoded "revolution."

Today Don Miguel Alemán fills the capital with his tourists, pointing out the children as colorful big-city folklore.

The President speaks of progress, having obtained one more U.S. loan. It matters not to him that with the loan he mortgages the revolution.

Award-winning First Lady, you hand out rotten breakfasts, and still think you're the benefactress of my precious childhood.

Uruchurtu* may fill the capital with palaces and flowers, but no one can deny that children must work very hard in that city.
Porque viéndolo bien
el gobierno acostumbra mentir
diciendo que diario protege a la infancia
y a esta en cualquier calle la vemos sufrir.

Pero un día vendrá,
en mi Patria la lucha está en pie,
un México nuebo, gobierno del pueblo
que proteja al niño y que todo le dé!

---

*Uruchurtu - former Mayor of Mexico City

The government of today keeps watch over our thinking.
And these are not the days of Diaz.
But the story is the same.
The student is menaced, repression is the order of the day,
and the prestige of our schools is in the hands of the police.

Uno y uno suman dos,
dos y uno suman tres!
Gorilita, gorilon! Que feo te ves!
Uno y uno otro más,
salta y brinca para atrás!
Gorilita, gorilon! Que feo estás!

Es derecho ciudadano
spayar a un compañero,
en esto que no se metan policías ni granaderos.

El gobierno que ahora manda
soldadotes a mi escuela
me reprime y me sofoca
y la sangre me rebela.

America this word means a para-
military dictator who uses soldiers
for repressing the common people.

But when you come right down to it,
the government is good at lying,
and saying children are protected,
while we see them suffer on any street.

But the day will surely come,
because the struggle has begun in my country,
we'll have a new Mexican people's government,
to protect all our children,
and to give them everything!

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*gorilita, gorilon - two forms of the word "gorilla." All over Latin America this word means a para-military dictator who uses soldiers for repressing the common people.
Side 2, Band 3:
CANCION DEL POLITECNICO (2:45)
(Song of Polytechnic Institute)

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
el cultivo de las técnicas es tu afán,
fuiste creado cuando México
junto con el mundo
creyó que nuestro México
de firmes esperanzas,
junto con el mundo
y progreso universal.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
eran fruto de imperiosa necesidad,
porque tu para los nuevos
tu alma polimorfa
porque tu para los nuevos
tu alma polimorfa
y cuando se respeten
de limpio desarrollo
y progreso universal.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
fuiste creado cuando México
creyó que nuestro México
de firmes esperanzas,
junto con el mundo
y progreso universal.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
thought that our country had embarked
the study of technique is your purpose.
you were created when Mexico,
along with the whole world,
thought that our country had embarked
on the true road of firm hopes,
untainted development, universal
progress.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
you are a product of our necessity,
because you have the techniques we need
to execute all the new discoveries!
And when rights and liberties are
respected,
your polymorphous soul will kindle
production.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional
I am from the struggling class,
the workers and the farmers,
I am polytechnic!**
When the assassin’s bullets hit the
classroom,
I died shouting "viva" to the Polytechnic.
National Polytechnic Institute (2X)
Stars and black wreaths, reddened eyes,
glory to the fallen dead of the Polytechnic.
Those who lived to tell the story
will sing the glory of the Polytechnic!
National Polytechnic Institute (2X)

*The Polytechnic Institute was founded
with a democratic perspective: to
recruit technical cadre from the
youthful peasant and working classes.
This origin explains the militancy
of these young students who played
an important part in the 1968 student
movement.

**Here the author means to say that the
working-class origins of the students
bring many techniques to their studi­
ies, and their struggles.

Side 2, Band 4:
TRAGEDIA DE LA PLAZA DE LAS TRES CULTURAS (4:50)
(Tragedy of Plaza of the Three Cultures)

El dos de octubre llegamos
todos pacíficamente
a un mitín en Tlatelolco
quince mil en la corriente.

Ano del sesenta y ocho
que pena me da acordarme
la plaza estaba repleta
como a las seis de la tarde.

Grupos de obreros llegaron
y el magisterio consciente
los estudiantes lograron
un hermoso contingente.

De pronto rayan el cielo
cuatro luces de bengala
y aparecen muchos hombres
guante blanco y mala cara.

Zumban las balas mortales
rápidos y el pánico crece -
busco refugio y la tropa
y aparecen muchos hombres.

Alzo los ojos al cielo
y un helicoptero mira
llueve el fuego muy tupido.

! Que fue fuerzas tan desiguales !
! Hartos tanques y fusiles !
! Armados los militares,
desarmados los civiles !

Doce años tenía un chiquillo
que muerto cayó a mi lado
y el vientre de una preñada
como lo han bayoneteado !

Hieren a Oriana Falacci
voz de la prensa extranjera
! Ya conocí la cultura
del gobierno de esta tierra !

Ya vió que vamos unidos
estudiantes con el pueblo
contra un sistema corrupto
y la falacia de un gobierno.

On the second of October we went
peacefully
to a rally in Tlatelolco.**

Groups of workers arrived,
politically aware teachers, and students,
together they made a beautiful contingent.

Suddenly, the sky is pierced by four
flares.
Many men appear, white gloves and
bestial faces,
bullets zing, panic creeps in.

I raise my eyes to heaven, and see a
helicopter over Tlatelolco.
It is raining heavy fire.

How unequal the forces!
So many tanks and guns!
The military armed, the civilians
with empty hands.

Next to me, a twelve year old boy fell
dead,
and the belly of a pregnant woman
was pierced with bayonets.

Oriana Falaci, voice of the foreign
press, is wounded.
At last she met the culture of the
government of this land.

She saw that we are united, students
and the people,
against a corrupt system and a false
government.
I will incorporate myself into the ranks of whoever is fighting the oppression of whoever is fighting the injustice of a corrupt and dishonored system.

Honraré a los caídos luchando, Tlatelolco no fué su final, porque habrán de vivir en el triunfo del que lucha por la nueva sociedad.

Adelante, adelante, marchemos, cada vez con cautela mayor, en la escuela, en el monte y el pueblo, Movimiento Estudiantil, contigo estoy. Movimiento Estudiantil... contigo estoy!

In Chihuahua, home of Pancho Villa, the guerrillas of Garoño. A rebellion that has been constant in the Sierra since the assault on Madero City in 1967. Tarahumara Indians, possessed communal farmers, students and some urban poor make up the insurgents. In the state of Chiapas, bordering Guatemala, Mexico's cooperation with the Guatemalan dictator against the guerrillas has brought the war into the states of Chiapas and Tabasco. Military control and censorship indicate a tight situation, but news is scarce.

In this report, we will focus on major bank robberies by guerrillas in Mexico City. In December 1971, the Chihuahua guerrillas expropriated 400,000 pesos; on Nov. 12, the same Chihuahua unit held up the giant Aceros Ecatepec steel corporation; Nov. 25 in Guadalajara saw 23 bank robberies (making four bank robberies in one day by the Chihuahua guerrillas) and in Tecpan (13 freed).

In January, 1972, a spectacular two-bank robbery took place in Monterrey by guerrillas. Army attempts to cordon off the city and establish roadblocks were destroyed by coordinated mass student demonstrations at the army check-points. The grievous loss of Vasquez can only stimulate this nationwide insurgency to more determined efforts.

I will honor the fallen by fighting. Tlatelolco was not the end. Because they will live in the triumph of those who fight for the new society.

Onward, onward let us march. Each time more on guard! In the school in the mountains, in the village, Student Movement, I am with you! Student Movement, I am with you!

(Continued next page)
Political kidnappings shook the exploiting classes and were effectively used by the guerrillas to finance their organizational needs and to "castigate" particularly offensive members of the oligarchy. The most notable operation saw the Frente Urbano Zapatista of Mexico City take the Federal Director of Airports on Oct. 1. The FUZ obtained $240,000 which it has been distributing in the barrios of the capital since Nov. 26.

On Nov. 23, the millionaire rector of the University of Guerrero (also a director of Coca-Cola) was held for the release of eight political prisoners in Mexico City (including the editor of Por Que? magazine) and 2.5 million pesos. The action was carried out by one unit of Vasquez's guerrillas. On Dec. 20 the millionaire Acapulco nightclub owner Armando Sotres was held for 200,000 pesos by the same guerrillas; Dec. 25, in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Carlos Felton - "multi-millionaire" and president of the Bank of Commerce of Sinaloa - was held for an undisclosed sum by unidentified "anti-imperialists." Again in Acapulco, the millionaire director of the Preparatoria 2 school was taken by men of Lucio Cabanas with the help of the school's own students and held for an undisclosed sum - some of which was recaptured along with three guerrillas by the police and army on Jan. 14.

Although the Secretary of National Defense has continually denied the existence of armed conflicts within Mexico, the army admitted combat with guerrillas on Dec. 7 in the Sierra of Guerrero. On Dec. 19 in Puebla, farmers fought off agents of the secret service trying to dislodge them from their land surrounding the American University outside Cholula. On Dec. 24 in the Federal District, one youth was killed and many wounded by police trying to evict small plot-holders of Nezahualcoyotl. The chief of police was subsequently forced out for "continual brutality and corruption with his command."

Very recent news of encounters of army and guerrillas near Agua Blanca, Chiapas and La Venta, Tabasco, is incomplete, although the press reports the guerrillas killed four uniformed "hunters" and then lost twelve men - captured by surprise in the Malpaso area bordering Guatemala. Conflicts between the army and peasants occupying unused land are unreported in the press, although they are said to have occurred in the south of Oaxaca state, Chiapas, northern Jalisco, Tlaxcala state and in the state of Mexico.

The government's response to the armed struggle has been terror for the revolutionaries and promises for the liberals. President Echeverria has publicized his plan to nationalize more of Mexico's eight automotive concerns. The purchase Dec. 5 of the giant Automex Co. by Chrysler went through unhindered, giving the U.S. complete control of five of Mexico's eight automotive concerns.

Yet liberals are joining Echeverria's name to that of Allende and Alvarez, largely on the basis of his threats to intervene in Mexico's communications and publicity "industries," his promises to expand trade with the socialist bloc, and his pledge to improve conditions for the super-exploited Indians in Chihuahua, Jalisco, Oaxaca and the Yucatan.

His terror, however, has not been merely promised. On Dec. 4 a "jail break" was staged in Lecumberri prison and four men were murdered by the prison director himself - one Pablo Alvarez Barrera, who had fought with the guerrillas of Guerrero, had been leading the fight to free the political prisoners. Five days later, Dec. 9, the army occupied the prison. Public outcry was so strong, that Echeverria, his aim accomplished, freed 20 prisoners who had been held since 1968 without trial. These freed prisoners immediately began a campaign to force the liberation of the remaining political prisoners.

The guerrillas' advances are only one side to the regime's problems. Union insurgency has been growing tremendously, especially since the release of the ex-head of the railway union, Demetrio Vallejo. Vallejo's movement has been challenging leadership of the locals across the nation. In early October, his supporters won the election in Tierra Blanca, Veracruz, to have the secret service intervene. Vallejo himself assisted at armed takeovers of union offices in Saltillo, Monterrey, and Guadalajara.

In Guadalajara, for example, the army was obliged to fight a two-day battle to regain the building, on Dec. 22-24, during which time student demonstrations and a general strike of all local transport drivers (with blockaded streets) aided the railway workers. As elsewhere, fascist gangs were used to help the army and police. In Reynosa, hired gunmen under a federal senator named Rojas took over a union hall of the petroleum workers who supported Vallejo on Dec. 20.

The press has begun a campaign to link Vallejo with the bank robberies in an attempt to intimidate his followers in reformist organizations.

The cracks in the regime's power have spread to isolated areas, as in Tacumbaro, Michoacan, where local people ran the government appointed town officials out of the village at the end of December and in the quiet state of Colima where the national press reported priests "instigating and arming the peasants of their parishes."

DEDICATION
Paredon wishes to dedicate the production of this record in the U.S.A. to GENARO VAZQUEZ ROJAS, commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary National Civic Association (ACNR), guerrilla who lost his life in pursuit of his duties on Tuesday, February 1, 1972. As he said himself about the death of another comrade, "One more has been sown and will germinate with the liberation of Mexico and a new homeland."