

COMIC STRIP CHRONOLOGY

July 22



Hard feelings after a football game spark a violent clash between students from Vocational Schools 2 and 5 of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) and the UNAM's Isaac Ochoterena High School in the Ciudadela (Citadel) area.

July 23 and 24

High school students clash again with vocational school students, this time involving cheerleader-team-based thugs who provoke both students and riot police into a confrontation. At the end of the day, Riot Police Battalion 19 enters Vocational School 5 without a warrant, attacking and arresting students and teachers.



As a result of the violence at Voca 5, different IPN schools and centers cancel classes so their students can organize a peaceful protest, supported by the National Technical Students Federation (FNTE) and the Executive Committee of the UNAM School of Political and Social Sciences. The latter declares an indefinite strike stating that it is to defend the prestige of both institutions.

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July 25 and 26

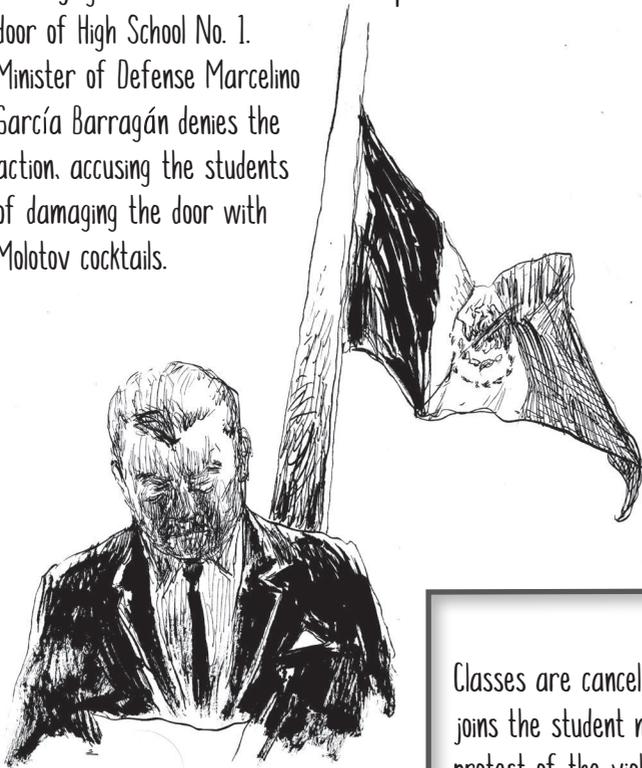
A group of IPN students and FNET leaders meet with the minister of the interior of what was then Mexico City's Federal District, Rodolfo González Guevara, to report on the march slated for the next day to denounce the police attack on Voca 5 students.

A demonstration organized by the National Democratic Students Central and the Communist Youth to commemorate the Cuban Revolution coincides with the National Technical Students Federation (FNET) protesting the police intervention at the Citadel. Police violently repress both demonstrations.



July 29

The police and the army occupy National High School and IPN campuses in downtown Mexico City, destroying with a bazooka the colonial period front door of High School No. 1. Minister of Defense Marcelino García Barragán denies the action, accusing the students of damaging the door with Molotov cocktails.



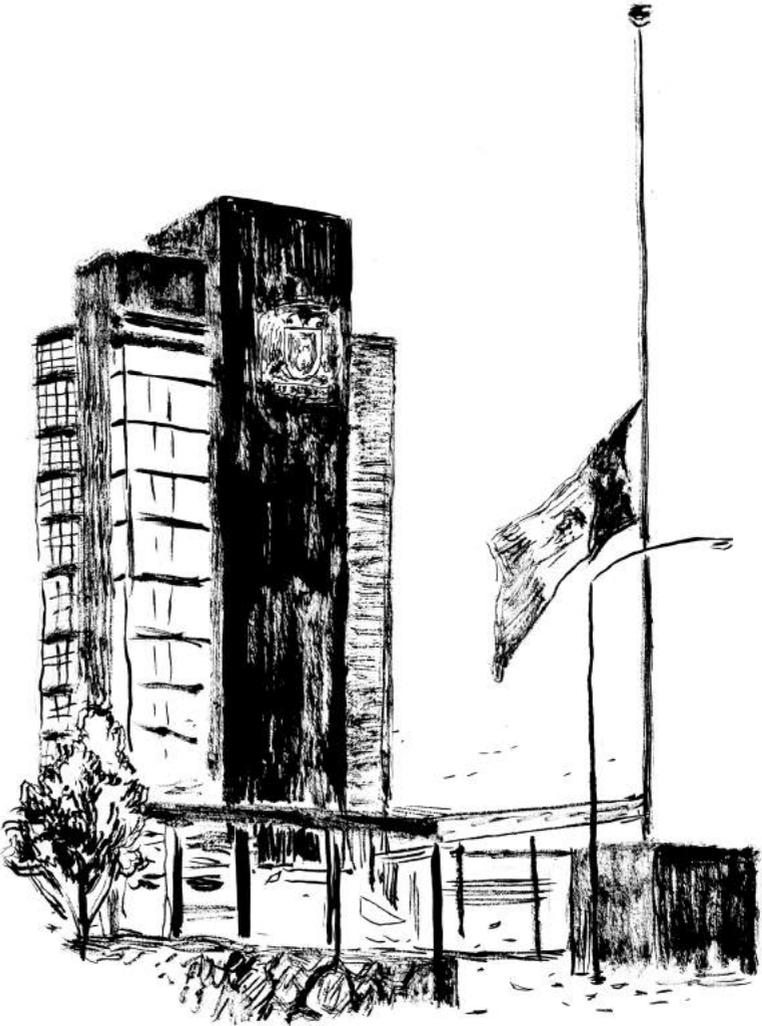
July 30



Classes are canceled in the UNAM and the IPN. University Rector Javier Barros Sierra joins the student movement in University City and lowers the flag to half mast in protest of the violation of university autonomy. Mexico City Mayor Alfonso Corona del Rosal promises to withdraw from the schools "if there are no further clashes."

July 31

Dawn comes to the capital with the news that the army has left Vocational Schools 3 and 5. The strike spreads in the UNAM, the IPN, the Higher Normal School, the University of Chapingo, the Ibero-American University, the La Salle College, El Colegio de México, the National Fine Arts Institute schools, and some other local universities across the country.



August 1



Barros Sierra heads a demonstration in defense of university autonomy. More than 80 000 leave University City, march along nearby streets, and return to campus. Meanwhile, President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz makes a speech in Guadalajara "lamenting" recent events and offering to "extend a hand to anyone who will take it."

August 2

In response to the attacks against the movement, the National Strike Council (CNH) is created to coordinate the institutions on strike. Twenty-six directors of IPN schools and other institutions publish a paid ad in the press supporting the students.



August 8

The CNH puts out its list of six demands:

1. Release of political prisoners
2. Dismissal of police chief General Luis Cueto Ramírez and his assistant Raúl Mendiola, and Lieutenant Colonel Armando Frías
3. The disbanding of the riot police
4. The repeal of Articles 145 and 145a of the Federal Criminal Code describing the crime of "social disturbance," used as the legal argument to justify the government attacks
5. Compensation for the families of the dead and injured
6. Determination of which authorities are responsible for government actions.



August 13

The first student march leaves from the Casco de Santo Tomás IPN campus to Mexico City's central Zócalo Square, headed by the Teachers Coalition. Almost 50 000 people ask the CNH demands be met.



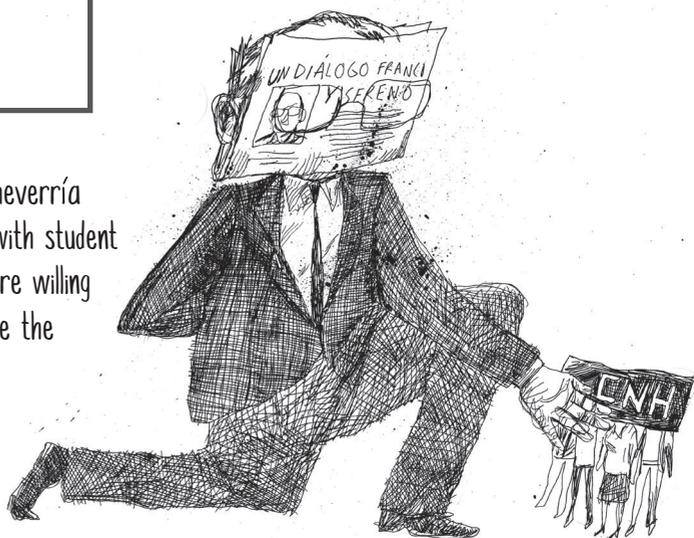
August 16

Strikers form informational brigades, becoming one of the main forms of direct participation to reach out to the public about the government's irresponsible repressive attitude and the lack of democracy. Intellectuals, writers, and artists form an alliance to support the students' resistance and denunciations; among the members are José Revueltas, Juan Rulfo, Carlos Monsiváis, and Manuel Felguérez.



August 22

Minister of the Interior Luis Echeverría offers to open a "frank and serene dialogue" with student representatives, saying that the authorities are willing to deal with the demands to definitively resolve the problems. The National Strike Council accepts with the condition that the dialogue be held in the presence of the print, radio, and television media.



August 27 and 28

The Teachers Coalition publishes a paid ad inviting the public to “a huge, popular demonstration in defense of democratic freedoms” to be held that day, marching from the National Museum of Anthropology and History to the Zócalo Square. Participants protest police repression of free speech and democratic values as well as the unjustified arrests of students and members of the public, turning them into political prisoners. The rally lasts well into the early hours of the next morning.

Police (one parachute and two infantry battalions, 12 armored vehicles with presidential guards, riot police, squad cars, firefighters, and several traffic cops) force demonstrators out of the Zócalo Square. The Ministry of National Defense and the Police Chief's Office state that they were simply doing their jobs maintaining public order when they intervened to evict the “troublemakers.”

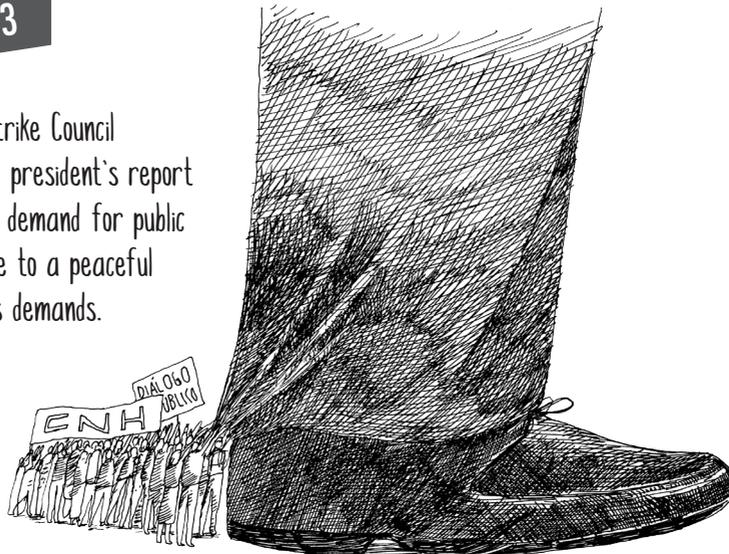


September 1

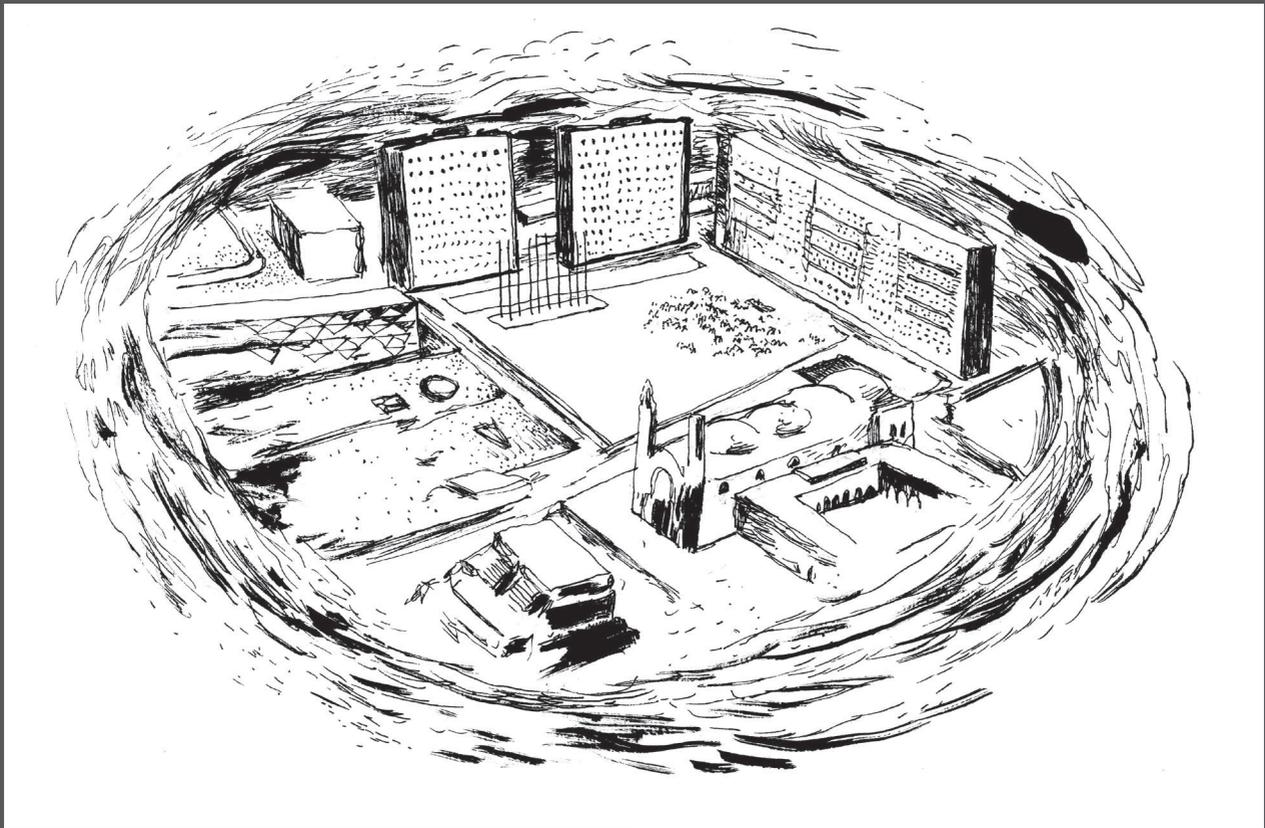
In his Fourth Report to the Nation, Gustavo Díaz Ordaz states that university autonomy has not been violated and Mexico has no political prisoners. He expresses his confidence that the disturbances will not prevent the Olympic Games from happening and that, if necessary, force will be used to maintain order: “We have been excessively tolerant and criticized for it, but everything has a limit, and we cannot allow order to continue to be disturbed, as everyone can see has been happening.”

September 3

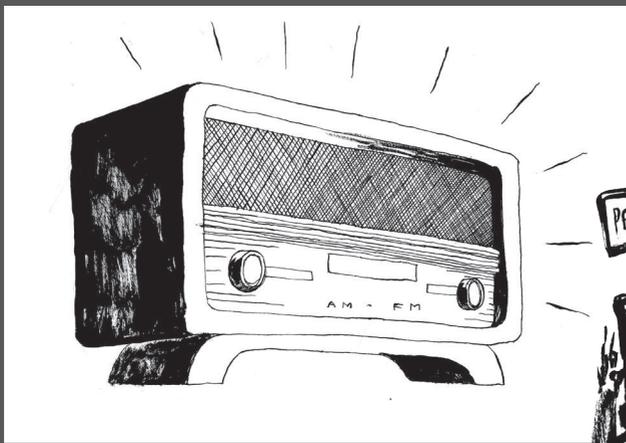
The National Strike Council responds to the president's report and ratifies its demand for public dialogue to come to a peaceful resolution of its demands.



September 7. The government proposes "public dialogue but without exhibitionism." In rejecting this proposal, the CNH holds a rally of 25 000 in the Tlatelolco Housing Project.



September 9. Rector Barros Sierra calls on the community to go back to class without renouncing the movement's aims.



September 13. A silent march is held along Reforma Avenue. 250 000 march in complete silence, using placards and gags over their mouths to express their rejection of being called "provocateurs and agitators."



September 18 and 19

At about 10 p.m., the army occupies University City and removes students from the premises, making students, parents, teachers, and workers retreat to the esplanade, arresting almost 500 persons.

The rector protests the military occupation, terming it "an excessive use of force" and a violation of university autonomy.



September 23

Barros Sierra resigns as rector citing the violence against the UNAM through the violation of its autonomy and the personal attacks and slanders hurled against him. He states that "young people's problems can only be resolved through education, never by force, violence, or corruption."

Numerous institutions and public figures make statements against his resignation and ask him to return to his post.



September 24

The army attacks the Casco de Santo Tomás IPN campus. Several young people are injured and the riot police damage the installations.



Attempts are made to renew **October 1** certain research, administrative, and cultural activities in University City. The National Strike Council calls for a demonstration in the Three Cultures Plaza in Tlatelolco for the next day.



October 2

During the rally, a flare is launched from a helicopter, the signal to begin firing against the demonstrators, killing and injuring a large number of participants and arresting many others.

