

# Elections held in Mexico

## Incomplete results point to division of power

MEXICO CITY (AP) — In an electoral revolution it brought on itself through democratic reforms, Mexico's ruling party has lost its decades-long monopoly on power and faces a new challenge: sharing power with an opposition.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, was punished Sunday by voters fed up with economic crisis and the last vestiges of an authoritarian system.

Incomplete results Monday showed the PRI losing the Mexico City mayoralty to veteran opposition politician Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, losing at least two of six governor's races and, most importantly, its long, unquestioned lock on Congress. President Ernesto Zedillo may become the first Mexican president since 1913 to face an opposition legislature.

That means cooperation must replace the bullying and arm-twisting that has worked since PRI's founding 68 years ago.

The kind of rubberstamp congressional vote that ensured approval of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 is likely a thing of the past. However, it was still too early to predict how the new Congress would work with the president on such controversial issues as free trade and anti-drug policy.

"The rules of the game have changed," said a leading political commentator, Sergio Sarmiento. "The ruling party must learn how to negotiate to survive."

The PRI will continue to wield enormous power. "It will still be the leading party in Mexico," Sarmiento said.

Despite the uncertainties, the vote was generally viewed as positive in both Mexico and abroad. Investors reacted favorably Monday in Mexico, where the peso strengthened and the stock market rose.

Born out of the ashes of the Mexican Revolution, the PRI was created in 1929 to unite feuding generals and bring peace to a country torn by fighting that killed 1

million people. For many years it provided the stability that allowed Mexico to rebuild its devastated economy and political system.

The PRI built a broad power base supported by the army, labor, peasants, and public employees. But in the past decade, it began to crumble when the government sold off hundreds of state enterprises, labor and peasant organizations lost their clout and economic crisis drove former party stalwarts to the opposition.

Former president Salinas, the PRI candidate elected in 1988 in balloting marred by widespread fraud, pushed through the first major reforms that chipped away the party's hold on power.

His successor, Zedillo, passed even more. The PRI sought Sunday to cast its most brutal electoral loss ever as an important democratic advance.

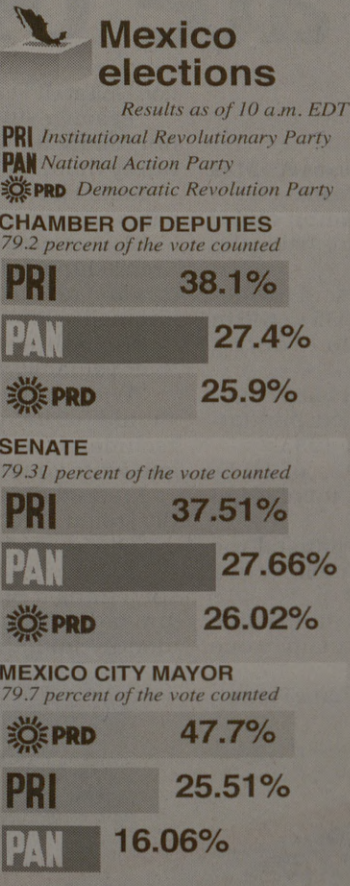
Zedillo's reforms "have passed their first test very satisfactorily," said ruling party national leader Humberto Roque. Even with the reforms, "the PRI has come out ahead in this electoral process," he insisted.

With more than 85 percent of ballots counted Monday for the lower house of Congress, the PRI had nearly 39 percent of the vote compared with 27 percent for the center-right National Action Party and almost 26 percent for Cardenas' left-center Democratic Revolution Party. Five other parties divided the rest.

A party needs at least 42 percent of the vote to win a majority in the lower house. Of the 500 seats, 300 are directly elected and 200 are allotted proportionally.

The last time a Mexican president faced a hostile Congress was during the Mexican revolution. Gen. Victorino Huerta staged a military coup and killed President Francisco Madero in 1913, dissolving the pro-Madero Congress a few months later.

In other races Sunday, Cardenas became the capital's first elected mayor since 1928. Previously, the post was appointed by the president.



# Conflicts abound during Northern Ireland's 'marching season'



BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Even as fresh conflicts brewed Monday night, police were summing up the violence to date in Northern Ireland's "marching season."

More than 100 civilians and police wounded. About 250 cars burned.

Some 700 gasoline bombs thrown at police. More than 1,600 plastic bullets fired back by police.

Rampages began Sunday after police and soldiers clubbed Catholic protesters out of a Protestant parade route through the main Catholic neighborhood in Portadown. The rioting wounded hopes for a new IRA cease-fire and a wider peace settlement pursued by new British and Irish leaders.

All the numbers were certain to rise with Catholic fury flowing unabated at the start of Northern Ireland's annual "marching season."

The Orange Order — the largest Protestant organiza-

tion — was mounting hundreds of parades through the week, climaxing Saturday with the 307th anniversary of Protestant King William of Orange's defeat of the de-throned Catholic King James II.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam approved the heavy-handed military operation on Portadown's Garvaghy Road, which kept the area's 3,000 residents locked in behind more than 100 armored cars and 1,500 riot police and troops. On Monday, she called it "the least worst option" to enable Orangemen to parade through the area quickly and quietly.

She said Protestants would have caused widespread mayhem if the Orangemen had been blocked, and some might have killed Catholic civilians, as happened last year when police tried to block the same march.

Instead, amid the rioting in Catholic areas throughout Northern Ireland, the IRA and a smaller paramilitary group,

# Hun Sen tightens control of Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Soldiers ran roughshod over the Cambodian capital Monday, stocking up with gusto on the spoils of a weekend coup: looted televisions, washing machines and cars hijacked at gunpoint.

At least 35 people were killed in two days of fighting in Phnom Penh when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed his main rival and coalition partner, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The prince had slipped away to France just before the coup. Thousands of ordinary Cambodians grabbed children and belongings and fled mortar and machine-gun battles in the capital. The airport remained closed Monday, stranding American college students from Oklahoma and other foreigners.

While Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party consolidated their power in the capital, fighting spread to northwestern Cambodia. Ranariddh's royalist supporters were regrouping for an anticipated

battle for Cambodia's second-largest city, Battambang.

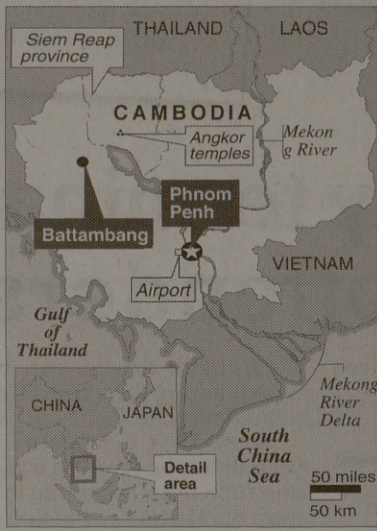
In the northwestern Siem Reap province, travelers reported heavy troop movements with tanks and armored personnel carriers near the ancient Angkor temples, some of the world's most spectacular religious monuments.

The prince called on his supporters to resist and warned of widespread war, while looking for outside help bringing peace to Cambodia.

"I'd like France to play a role alongside with Japan as intermediary," Ranariddh told Associated Press Television. "If such fighting will be continuing, we will have ... civil war."

In the capital, a nighttime curfew was lifted Monday, but not until after troops rampaged through the streets, robbing shops and homes, unleashing volleys of gunfire into the air and rounding up defeated opponents, including former Interior Minister Ho Sok.

A neighborhood near Phnom

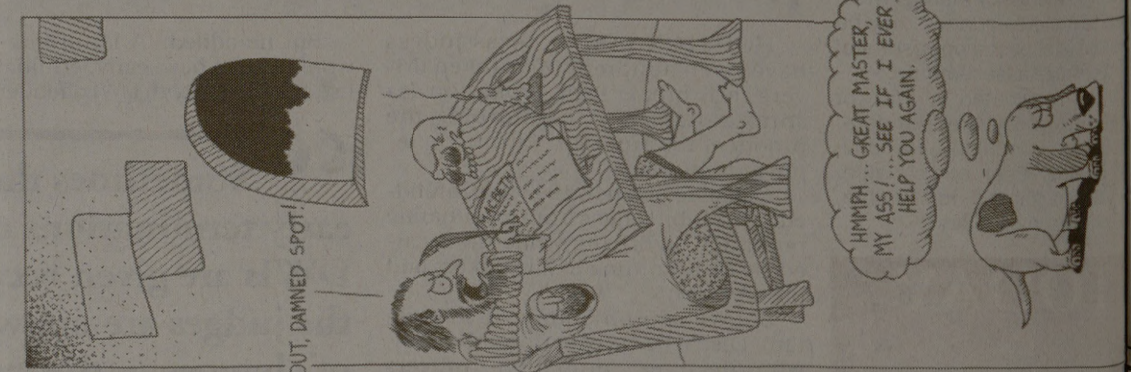


Penh University was a wasteland of wrecked tanks, gutted cars, houses holed by rocket fire and spent bullet casings, bodies of dead royalist troops in the streets.

# WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 95° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 95° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 95° Low: 75°

# Sketch



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