

17 Enero 1994

Both Russian and Western sources argue that Clinton should broaden his embrace of Yeltsin to include other progressives, backing democratic reform as a policy rather than Yeltsin as a person. But Yeltsin's advisers insist that there is no reformist alternative to their man. "The choice is between the enlightened authoritarianism of Yeltsin and the pure totalitarianism of Zhirinovskiy and the communists," says Migranyan.

Clinton's dilemma. That puts Clinton in a bind. He must continue to support Yeltsin in public; anything less now would be regarded in Moscow as a betrayal, and only add to the Russian president's problems. But Clinton's policy is based largely on an abiding faith that Yeltsin will never turn away from reform and a benign foreign policy. U.S. officials have given little thought to how they might deal with a more authoritarian Yeltsin or cope with Russia after Yeltsin.

Some officials think Clinton should warn that the United States will not support economic progress at the expense of democracy. That would play well in America, but U.S. influence is marginal at best and it is unlikely to sway Yeltsin as he fights to survive in a new Russia that in many ways still resembles the old one.

BY FRED COLEMAN IN MOSCOW WITH
TIM ZIMMERMANN IN WASHINGTON

Two recent events in Russia—the success of ultranationalist candidates in the country's December parliamentary elections and mounting evidence that Moscow will consider Eastern Europe part of a Russian sphere of influence—are heightening the East European security worries. Governments from Bonn to Budapest are unanimous in arguing that the West will gain nothing by delaying NATO enlargement. Instead, they say, admitting East European states will only get harder—especially for Germany.

WORLD REPORT

The revolution in the other Mexico

A peasant revolt is a reminder of old problems

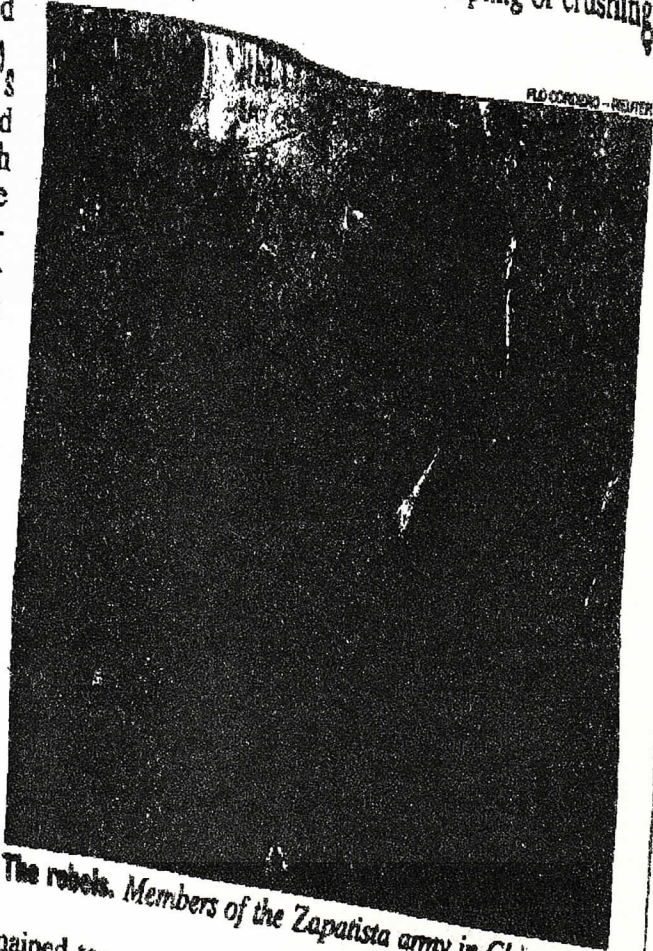
For 64 years Mexico's political system has delivered stability to a nation torn by the bloody 1910-17 revolution and its tumultuous aftermath. But a sudden outbreak of violence in Mexico's southern triangle of mountains and Mayan ruins has now raised concerns about the future of a neighbor the United States has all but taken for granted in recent years.

The challenge reared its head on New Year's Eve in the backward state of Chiapas, with rebels claiming the name of revered revolutionary Emiliano Zapata and waving his banner of dispossessed peasants. Hundreds of rebels in red bandannas, some carrying automatic weapons and in uniform, swooped into San Cristóbal de las Casas and other towns and vowed a fight to the death.

One week and at least 105 deaths later, San Cristóbal and the other towns were retaken by 12,000 Army troops, but the second-largest city in Chiapas remained tense. Nervous soldiers

tance this year to one top-flight club, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But the peasant revolt in Chiapas has done more than tarnish Mexico's new image. It reflects an apparent breakdown in the government's cherished ability to maintain stability by brokering compromises and co-opting or crushing



The rebels. Members of the Zapatista army in Chiapas.