

Expert says elite backers of PAN angered PRI

By Arthur Golden
Staff Writer

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) grabbed almost all the offices in Mexico's July 7 elections because the party wanted to punish the economic elite who supported the opposition, a Mexican expert said yesterday.

Lorenzo Meyer, professor of political science at El Colegio de Mexico, a private graduate school in Mexico City, said he believes the PRI was angered by business leaders who had become activists in the National Action Party (PAN).

"It seems to me that the PRI and the government decided to teach them a lesson, to show them that it's

extremely costly and ineffective" to mount a political challenge to the existing order, Meyer said.

In the first official congressional results announced yesterday in the Mexican capital, the federal electoral commission declared PRI candidates the winners in 230 of the 234 races tallied so far for seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

The commission said PAN candidates won three seats, and that the small Authentic Mexican Revolutionary Party won one seat. The PRI now holds 299 of the 300 directly elected seats in the chamber and the PAN holds one.

There are 400 seats in the lower

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