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## MEXICAN STUDENTS STILL SPAR WITH GOVERNMENT

Mexican students have rejected the government's response to their demands and are threatening to continue their movement in the streets. They plan a silent "mourning" march on 13 September, which if carried out will indicate how cohesive the movement still is and will show also the extent of the government's determination to use force.

The latest official reply to the students amounted to a reiteration of the stern position taken by President Diaz Ordaz in his state of the union message on 1 September and probably undermined tentative negotiations that had been under way. The government appears to believe that its behind-the-scenes maneuvering to divide the students has been effective enough to risk provoking the strikers.

An officially inspired "committee of the authentic student

body" has publicly opposed the strike, and other government-influenced sectors have voiced their support for the President. The press has reported the staging of a progovernment, anti-Communist demonstration on 8 September in the capital.

The government may, however, continue to underestimate the students, whose recently found ability to rattle the authorities has been a heady experience that could play into the hands of extremist leaders who have most to gain in a prolongation of the unrest.

The embassy estimates that these radicals have only a limited ability to cause serious disruption at the Olympics starting on 12 October and notes no suggestion yet of any moves growing out of the student protest that might affect US participation.

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## A RENEWED VIOLENCE IN MEXICO

Violence this week reached a level that raises doubt about the Mexican Government's capability to keep the Olympic events and the many foreign visitors insulated from its domestic crisis. The long firefight between students and army troops on the night of 2 October left many dead and hundreds wounded, at least doubling the previous casualties in the two-month student campaign.

Several trained observers at the scene reported that the encounter was a premeditated provocation by the students, who apparently were well armed. Student strike leaders, perhaps believing they had already won a significant victory in their reoccupation of the national university after the troops withdrew, pledged to continue the campaign against the government and broadened their demands. They now appear determined to try to force cancellation of the Olympics, which they recognize

as of the utmost importance to the government.

The government, for its part, is so determined to prevent disruption of the games and to protect the visitors that security forces are likely to overreact against student provocations. The potential for further violent incidents is therefore high.

The "martyrs" created during the past week will probably provide a new rallying point for university students in the provinces, where several demonstrations have been staged in support of the Mexico City strikers. All military zone commanders now have authority to move against disorderly students in the provinces without checking with the capital. One student demonstrator was killed by police this week in the state of Veracruz, and further trouble is expected in other states as well as in the capital city.

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## MEXICAN GOVERNMENT READIES FOR MORE STUDENT TROUBLE

Student actions over the next week will show whether the Mexican Government's crackdown before the Olympics has had the desired effect of cowing the students or whether their movement is indeed a new political force to be reckoned with.

The government is cautiously pursuing a campaign to get the students back to classes by 4 November, and so far has not reacted to the students' insistence that the strike will go on until their demands are met. Student strike leaders are still pressing for the release of those detained in connection with the demonstrations that began in July and an end to "government repression."

In spite of their public optimism that a cordial solution to the student-government conflict is in view, officials are concerned over the possibility of renewed disruptions and are preparing for it. Two 1,500-man army units are in training for use in the event of further violence, and the government is likely to move to a harsh policy

of repression if its moderate conciliatory tactics fail.

The "new left" - style leaders within the student movement probably wish to provoke the government into a stiffer attitude that would increase resentment against the Diaz Ordaz administration and dilute the good will generated during the successful and widely acclaimed Olympic period. The student strike council has used those two weeks to reorganize, to proselytize among workers and peasants, and to prepare a campaign against a return to classes.

Several plans for a massive, peaceful demonstration have been reported, but student leaders may postpone their major antigovernment effort until 5 November, when primary and secondary school teachers have been called to strike for higher wages. Should the strike council and the important teachers union join forces, the movement would pose a far more serious challenge to government authority than it did before the Olympics.

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