

## 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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