

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT READIES FOR MORE STUDENT TROUBLE

warning

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.

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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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