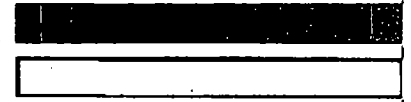




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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Mexico's System for Adjudicating Electoral Disputes

The **Federal Electoral Commission**—staffed on a proportional basis by all registered political parties and chaired by the Secretary of Government, a ruling-party appointee—determines official election results. Parties or individual candidates intending to challenge specific results not resolved by the Commission itself must file complaints with the **Electoral Tribunal**, a panel of seven judges appointed by the government and empowered to rule on such cases. The Tribunal must expedite disputes and reach a decision not later than five days before the installation of the **Electoral College**, now scheduled for 15 August.

The Electoral College, composed of the newly elected, ruling-party-dominated legislature, will certify the election. Any party that enters in an agreement not to participate in the Electoral College will have its official registration canceled.

In addition to the process outlined above, separate legal options—such as civil suits and criminal complaints—may be pursued, although the Electoral Tribunal was created by the ruling party to limit access to the courts by the opposition.



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MEXICO:

Opposition Plots Next Move

The opposition apparently has decided to focus on legal means to overturn Carlos Salinas's election as president, but the ruling party's control of the legal apparatus is likely to frustrate these tactics. 

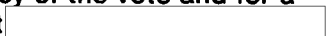

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The leftist opposition wants to show that it can mobilize popular support by calling for a national protest to coincide with the convening of the Electoral College on 15 August. According to press reports, it also has mounted an array of legal challenges to Salinas's election, including suits before the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Tribunal.  leftist leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas may attempt to organize an opposition boycott of the Electoral College to undercut the credibility of the Salinas win. Cardenas may also try to build a case for a constitutional challenge of the legality of the election by persuading at least one state legislature to certify him independently as the new president,



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
Rightwing presidential candidate Manuel Clouthier has called for a national referendum on the legitimacy of the vote and for a continuation of civil disobedience, but  his party remains divided over confrontational tactics. 

(b)(1)
(b)(3)


 the party will not collaborate with the left's efforts to protest the outcome of the election, in part because it has evidence that Cardenas used anti-Salinas contacts within the ruling party to tamper with the balloting himself. 

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(b)(3)

(b)(3)

Comment: The legal maneuvers the leftist strategists are contemplating are not likely to overturn the election because the ruling party controls the legal system and has enough votes in the Electoral College to sustain Salinas's win. Furthermore, the traditionally fractious nature of the leftist coalition and the right's refusal to coordinate efforts with the Cardenas camp probably preclude an effective boycott of the Electoral College or joint efforts in the new congress to support any constitutional challenge. Cardenas—already facing financial problems—will find it difficult to attract sustained financial backing to maintain his political momentum after the Electoral College convenes. 

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If attempts to seek legal redress fail, the opposition will have to decide whether to confront the government in the streets or seek accommodation with the ruling party on terms dictated by the incoming Salinas administration. 

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