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Oct. 4 marked the eighth day of partial work stoppages and threats to strike by Uruguayan teachers. On Wednesday, unionized primary and secondary school teachers numbering about 42,000 stayed at home. Primary school instructors are demanding a 35% salary hike in response to the government's extension of their work hours, and inadequate instructional materials. Secondary level teachers are protesting institutional changes mandated by the Education Ministry as well as low salaries. Teachers' organizations at technical colleges and private schools joined the strike action on Oct. 4. However, most private schools were operating normally on Wednesday. According to the government, the teachers' salary demands are unconstitutional. Teachers' unions have requested the PIT-CNT, Uruguay's biggest labor confederation, to organize a nationwide strike in support of their demands. The PIT-CNT had previously scheduled a partial work stoppage for Oct. 10 to protest government austerity policies. (Basic data from Prensa Latina, Xinhua, 10/04/89)

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