

Carter Advisors Launch Campaign to End Mexico's Population Growth

In the past two weeks, the official spokesman for the Carter transition team and Carter's press outlets have promoted an intense propaganda campaign around Mexico's enormous population growth and the so-called solutions to stop it.

The essence of the campaign was expressed by right-wing Mexican politician Jose Angel Conchello in a Dec. 23 article in the daily *El Universal*, in which he responded to Mexican Labor Party charges that he is pro-Nazi. Conchello explained that Mexico at this point has no choice but to follow the policies of the "financial genius" Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's finance minister, and "recognize just what our abundant resource is and take ample advantage of it: man."

Three days earlier, the *Baltimore Sun* had published an editorial entitled "Too Many Mexicans," that called for "an East German-style fence (that) would kill a few Mexicans and keep more out" as an alternative to continued Mexican immigration to the United States. "Is that what Americans want?" the *Sun* asked.

In France, the latest issue of the magazine *L'Express* features an interview with Daniel Bell, one of Jimmy Carter's top advisors and a professor at Harvard University, who elaborated even more drastically Carter's solutions for Mexico. "The United States can no longer absorb illegal immigrants," Bell said. "We may see an explosion on our southern border that will force Mr. Carter to withdraw certain (military) units from Europe."

Other Carter spokesmen have revealed the beginnings of a joint Mexican-U.S. plan to tackle economic problems in Mexico. Carter's Secretary of Labor-designate, F. Ray Marshall, stated that "keeping foreign aliens out of the job market in the United States is the first step in reducing unemployment." To achieve this, Marshall added, Carter will have to intervene in Mexican economic policy in order to keep the labor force tied to its place of origin and prevent its migration to the U.S. Marshall's remarks were reported by United Press International Dec. 24.

Clarifying these projects further, former state department official John Parke Young recommended "a Marshall Plan for Mexico." According to an interview with Young in the *Los Angeles Times*, this would consist of a Mexican-U.S. commission in charge of seeking soft loans — the source of which he did not specify — and a renegotiation of Mexico's foreign debt. As for a debt moratorium, Young hastened to say, "I don't think we should even mention that word."

Mexican President José Lopez Portillo left the door wide open for this U.S. intervention into Mexican affairs. As reported by columnist Marquis Childs in the Dec. 28 *Washington Post*, Lopez said: "I would like to see a joint commission named to study trade and agriculture for the long term." Childs specified each of the points that this

commission would cover: investment solely for creating jobs using cheap manual labor; an end to the distribution of latifundios among peasants; population control; and above all, the handing over of Mexican oil to multinational interests. Should Lopez fail to comply with these points, concluded Childs, "unemployment, terrorism, and violence will be exported across a 2,000-mile border."

In an interview in the Mexican press Dec. 30, centrist Lopez announced that Mexico will increase oil exports, implement population control, and pay off the foreign debt. At the same time he noticeably avoided any reference to the aggressive Third World policies of former president Luis Echeverria. Lopez, however, rejected the implementation of these points by "drastic plans." Instead he insisted that "thoughtfulness be what governs these proposals."

Among the first domestic steps in putting the new plan into effect is the breaking up of traditionally nationalist institutions such as the Pacto de Ocampo, the largest peasant federation. This week several right-wing spokesmen asserted that the Pacto will give up its fight for dividing up the latifundios (large landholdings) and instead opt for "getting jobs" for peasants in agro-industries using cheap and unskilled manual labor.

The pressure of the Carter team on the president and population of Mexico revolves around Mexico's enormous foreign debt. Last week, Finance Minister Julio Moctezuma Cid revealed that the amount of public foreign debt has reached \$20 billion and he indicated that the total foreign debt fluctuates between \$32 and \$35 billion. This huge sum makes Mexico the Third World country with the highest foreign debt.

A representative of Mexico City's right-wing Chamber of Commerce, Jose Luis Ordonez, revealed Dec. 23 that the private sector is already renegotiating its debt in dollars and that its foreign creditors "look on this sympathetically." Nevertheless Ordonez added, "the only thing that worries them is Mexico's demographic growth."

Mexico Needs Schacht

The following are excerpts from an article by Jose Angel Conchello, published in the Mexican Daily El Universal Dec. 16:

The country's economic recovery program needs the ideas of the great banker, Hjalmar Schacht....

The economic mechanism of investing capital to create work in order to yield money, to in turn make more capital and more work...has been the cornerstone, the