

ENERGY

Arden House plotters claim Mexico has no oil

A bizarre Big Lie campaign concerning Mexico's vast oil finds is making its way through the boardrooms of America's oil majors and top levels of the Anglo-American policy establishment.

The whispers run as follows: "Mexico doesn't have the oil it says it has. The oil that exists is of rotten quality. The much-touted development programs based on projected oil revenues are therefore a pipedream."

This astounding story is now making its way duly into public channels, and the *Executive Intelligence Review* can report the following summary details of how the plot to say Mexico has no oil is being run.

We pick up the thread at an early March energy conference held at the Harriman family's Arden House, situated in Mt. Kisco, New York. At this meeting — possibly one of several of its kind — international deployments to manipulate the world energy picture are set. Top priority: bamboozle the U.S. into believing it must impose austerity as the only solution to a fictitious "energy crisis." Special focus: Mexico is not all it's cracked up to be. Its oil is low-quality, and there are big problems in getting it out. Attendees included selected representatives of the international press and executives from the major U.S. oil and gas companies.

Within the week top executives at Aramco are reliably reported to be spreading the line through national and international networks.

Then on March 21, an Agence France Press wire published in Mexico reports a warning from an anonymous "New York oil company official" that Mexico has been overstraining its oil reserves. The same day *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* moots the possibility that Mexico won't be able to meet "15-25 percent" of future contracts due to "temporary" problems of supply.

On March 23, Dr. Robert Mabro, director of the Middle East Center of St. Anthony's College, Oxford University, pops up with a study denigrating the worth of Mexican oil estimates. Mexico's continuing upgrading of its oil estimates is "pure propaganda," designed to induce "the international banking community to continue to provide credits to this highly indebted country." His study is covered in the two West German newspapers, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Die Welt*.

Four days later the reliable Mexican political columnist, Manuel Buendia, charges in the pages of Mexico's *Excelsior* that "there appears to be an international campaign developing to discredit Pemex," the Mexican national oil company. He cites sudden international reports of Pemex's alleged inability to fulfill future contracts, and singles out a late March Julia Preston article in the *Nation* magazine which attempts to portray Pemex director Jorge Diaz Serrano's announcement last November of the giant Chicontepec field as a fraud.

What's going on here?

Your eyebrows are raised. At least they should be. The reliability of Pemex's oil figures goes unquestioned in knowledgeable energy circles.

So what's going on here?

A quote from Dr. Mabro's study helps to clarify the matter. Wrote the British intelligence specialist, "Mexican oil is a disaster. Its mere existence on America's front doorstep is delaying lasting and effective energy savings in the U.S." That is, the U.S. population recognizes that the vast supply of Mexican oil, part of a pattern of worldwide energy developments, renders moot the energy austerity scenario being thrown by Schlesinger, and Co., at the U.S.

But even more important, the British-Arden House Big Lie campaign is designed to deflate the intense interest on the part of energy-consuming countries to sign development package deals with Mexico, under which Mexico's oil and gas are traded for advanced capital goods and other technology. France is in the forefront of this push. From the Asian side, there is Japan. And within the U.S., there is considerable interest among export-oriented industry and some energy firms in such a policy.

If Mexico doesn't have the oil it says it has, then one must ask oneself why the United States is presently trying to twist the arms of the Japanese and Europeans into backing off from development deals with Mexico. According to highly placed Japanese intelligence sources, Henry Kissinger and Goldman Sachs investment banker Henry Fowler are presently en route to Tokyo with the message to stay clear of Mexico.

—Tim Rush