

Aspen Institute 'reviews' the policies of Mexico

by Tim Rush



The *Executive Intelligence Review* has learned that the Anglo-American "Establishment," centered in the New York Council on Foreign Relations, has undertaken a top-to-bottom review of policy toward Mexico and Latin America. These studies will result in a fundamental reformulation of strategy, of the kind which occurs only once in a decade.

The estimation of the planners at the top is that the time has come to lock Latin America into the kind of "backyard" strategic preserve that it represented for the United States during World War II. For this, a new generation of supranational control mechanisms will be necessary, and their design and imposition on Latin America requires a whole new set of policy initiatives.

To achieve this, the CFR understands, Mexico will have to be destabilized and broken. Mexico today represents, as it has historically, the backbone of Latin American defense of the concept of full national sovereignty. And with its oil, its determination to industrialize, and its "nation-builder" republican traditions, Mexico poses a major strategic threat to Anglo-American interests—especially if it links up politically and economically with the European and Japanese "European Monetary System" faction.

The two mechanisms established for this policy overhaul are as yet little known to the average American, but are of the highest significance. One, channeled through the Colorado-based Aspen Institute, is a study on "Governance in the Western Hemisphere." The other, entrusted by the CFR and the Rockefeller Foundation to their joint subsidiary, the Overseas Development Council (ODC), is a far-reaching new program of "U.S.-Mexican Bilateral Task Forces."

The Aspen group has been charged with nothing less than convening a "constitutional convention" for supranational regional government, according to Ronald Scheman, a principal mover of the project and right-hand man to Alejandro Orfila, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Scheman told an interviewer that *no* existing policies or institutions are to

be seen as sacrosanct: "Where the governance functions approved by the Aspen group match existing institutions, they should be strengthened. Where they don't, they should be scrapped."

The membership assembled for the Aspen study represents the highest level of policy planners on both the American and the Latin American side (see listing below). It would be unusual for individuals of this stature, each of whom brings with him a network of top-level former or present associations and outside institutional commitments, to gather even once. Yet Aspen's project will bring them together for *two years* of in-depth, ongoing consultation. The four-day inaugural session took place early last week at Aspen's Wyatt Plantation on Maryland's Eastern shore. The mandate, in chairman Viron Vaky's words, "is a sweeping one: we will be looking at everything from economic, energy, and trade issues, to military and strategic questions."

The role of the Aspen Institute itself is of particular significance. Aspen, a sister institution to the Club of Rome, is wholly committed to imposing a zero-growth, anti-technology "new age" on the advanced sector and developing sector alike, and played a key inside role in setting up the Shah of Iran for his overthrow. Aspen will now bring that expertise to bear on the Mexican case.

Both Aspen and the Club of Rome are creations of NATO intelligence. They have at their disposal, routinely or "on-call," the full financial resources and political assets of the aristocratic-financier oligarchy of Britain and the European continent, the controllers of NATO intelligence, and the masters of the *Societas Jesu* internationally. Hence, there will be no difficulty whatsoever for the Aspen and allied ODC "task force" initiatives to achieve synchronization with Jesuit destabilization activity inside Mexico proper.

Additionally, Aspen's chairman and primary bank-roller, Atlantic Richfield chief Robert O. Anderson, coordinates a number of U.S. multinationals whose Latin American enterprises are essentially intelligence operations disguised within massive business bureaucracies. These include, in addition to his own ARCO, Sears Roebuck (Sears' international vice president, John Gal-

The Aspen eleven

The following is the membership of the Committee on Governance in the Western Hemisphere:

Viron P. Vaky, Chairman; Associate Dean, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service; Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, 1975-79; former U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and Venezuela; National Security Council staff-Latin America; Council on Foreign Relations

Nicholas Ardito Barletta, Vice President, Latin America and Caribbean, World Bank; former finance minister, Panama; OAS Group of 15 "Wise Men"

Gonzalo Facio, former foreign minister, Costa Rica; member, international directorate, Socialist International

John Gallagher, Vice President, International Operations, Sears, Roebuck

Mario Garnero, President, Brazilinvest; founder, Foro de las Americas; member, OAS Group of 15 "Wise Men"

Felipe Herrera, Club of Rome; chairman, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); former president, InterAmerican Development Bank; OAS Group of 15 "Wise Men"

Joseph John Jova, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, 1973-77; president, Meridian House International

Rodrigo Botero Montoya, member, Brandt Commission; former finance minister, Colombia

Richard Rubottom, Professor of Diplomacy, Southern Methodist University; Assistant Secretary of State for Interamerican Affairs, 1957-60; president, University of the Americas, Puebla, Mexico, 1971-73; border adviser, Texas Governor Clements

Sidney Weintraub, Professor of History, University of Texas; Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, 1969-73; Brookings Institution

William Moody, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Four Aspen officers are ex-officio members: **Joseph E. Slater**, President; **Harlan Cleveland**, International Affairs Director; **Judith Himes**, Assistant International Affairs Director; and **Stephen P. Strickland**, Vice President

lagher, serves on the Governance task force) and W.R. Grace and Co.

The Overseas Development Council's Mexico project, which is also conceived as the highest-level full review of policy, shares the same strategic perspective—and much of the same networks—with the Aspen project.

The ODC is a Washington-based "global issues" front organization for the CFR, whose chairman of the board, Father Theodore Hesburgh, is simultaneously chairman of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and a director of the CFR. The Rockefeller Foundation is providing the bulk of the funding for the ODC's Mexico project; the CFR provides oversight and certain key personnel. In 1979 CFR Fellow Susan Purcell, for instance, was assigned to the ODC for the fall months of 1980 to supervise the group's preliminary work, together with project director Robert Ayers.

What the ODC project is designed to do, in Ayres' words, is "institutionalize a process of policy dialogue between a group of Mexican and American elite publics" in a much more intensive way than ever before.

Individuals from such top-level policy institutions in Mexico as the Colegio de Mexico regularly and closely interact with fellow thinktankers at the CFR, the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, the Brookings Institution, the Mexico Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and so forth. There are even occasional conferences jointly sponsored by institutions on both sides of the border.

During precisely the years programmed for the intensifying destabilization outlined elsewhere in this Special Report, the ODC will be running "task forces" in such areas as trade, migration, agriculture and energy whose primary characteristics will be that they are *multi-year* (Ayres speaks of 2-3 years as the minimum mandate) and will have *unchanging membership*.

In addition, the program will break out of a purely "thinktanker" mode to embrace "very prominent" businessmen and a few, but influential, government figures.

In Mexico, the bases already established include, in addition to Colegio de Mexico, the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), and the Technological Institute of Monterrey. The "prominent businessmen" are "not only from Mexico City but from Monterrey," says Ayres, and in the government "we have good ties with some of the higher figures in the Foreign Ministry and the Finance Ministry."

The ties with Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda and his top "global issues" lieutenants are particularly close: Castañeda heads the lobbying group in Mexico for the Brandt Commission Report, which represents the same kind of assault on principles of sovereignty as Aspen's "constitutional convention" project, while the ODC is the official distributor and propagandist for the Brandt Commission within the United States.