

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### The PSD's business empire

*Part II of our exposé: what every businessman should know about the Sintemex 'consulting' operation.*

**Y**ou can only burn a candle from both ends for so long before you get burned, and it looks like Mexico's Social Democrat Party (PSD) is proving the adage once again.

Probably the most important irony for businessmen in the activities of this most anomalous group is that, while pulling the strings of Mexican left terrorism and radical environmentalism (see Part I), the PSD runs one of the premier business consulting empires in Mexico.

Servicios Integrales de Mexico (Sintemex) was founded in 1973 as an offshoot of Acción Comunitaria, the political vehicle of Monterrey business leader Roberto Guajardo Suárez and a group of whiz-kid protégés, the brothers Sánchez Aguilar—Luis, Edgardo, Edmundo, and Ricardo.

The whole crew moved to Mexico City to do sensitive consulting work for government and private sector clients, in Mexico and abroad, from plush quarters on Avenida Escobedo. In 1979 the more directly political work changed labels—Acción Comunitaria became the PSD—but little was changed in terms of personnel. Luis Sánchez Aguilar became secretary-general of the PSD while continuing as president of Sintemex.

One of the cards Sintemex plays today is its access to inside government information. Few foreign businessmen are probably aware that when they provide internal

corporate information to Hector Alvarez de la Cadena, director of the Foreign Investments Office of the Industry Ministry (Sepafin), they are dealing with a man who was Vice-President of Acción Comunitaria in 1975 and remains part of the PSD inner circle today.

The other card Sintemex plays is its connections to the Harvard and MIT economics faculties, presumably through Edmundo Sánchez Aguilar who received his doctorate from Harvard. A dozen luminaries from these faculties appear among Sintemex's "international associates," including Nobel laureate and RAND product, Paul Samuelson, and DRI's Otto Eckstein.

It's not at all clear how many of Sintemex's business clients know they are dealing with an outfit which simultaneously gives direction to Mexico's terrorist and environmentalist left.

Nor is it clear how many on the left know what the PSD/Sintemex is up to in the world of big business. The PSD yelped in a recent anti-nuclear tirade in its leftist magazine *Di*, that Mexican groups supporting Mexico's far-reaching nuclear energy program were doing the dirty work of the "nuclear multinationals"—never mentioning that one of Sintemex's own principal foreign clients is a major nuclear supplier.

Most explosive of all for PSD-watchers is the fact, just unearthed

by *EIR* investigations, that two of Sintemex's closest collaborators come straight out of the U.S. State Department, and are linked to the networks which laid the basis for today's upheaval in Central America—an issue of vital to the national security of Mexico.

Charles Henry Lee started his State Department career helping adjust the Guatemala-Honduran border in the 1930s. He then passed to Nelson Rockefeller's staff in the Office of Coordinator of Latin American Affairs, stationed as deputy military attaché in Argentina during the crucial 1943-1945 years that the Rockefeller networks worked with Perón to find a haven for Nazis fleeing Europe.

In 1973, after a varied career with the State Department and, starting in 1958, with multinational corporations in Mexico, he became a founding partner of Sintemex.

From joint days in Argentina during the war, Lee drew on Charles Burrows to be Sintemex's Washington representative. A career foreign service officer, Burrows was ambassador from 1960-65 in the United Brands plantation known as Honduras—the same United Brands which has fomented the Central American bloodshed from "right" and "left."

As director of Central American Affairs back in the State Department from 1965-69, Burrows supervised the buildup toward the 1969 conflict between El Salvador and Honduras. The role of Lee and Burrows in Sintemex is now raising questions over the legality of the registration of the PSD as an official party. No Mexican party is allowed to serve foreign interests. Has the PSD stepped outside the bounds?