

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

The FBI scandal: Part I

The FBI's illegal role in Mexico—up until this month—was one of the Western hemisphere's most closely-guarded secrets.

When we poked into the small but high-powered Social Democratic Party (PSD) in March, readers of these columns will remember, we discovered a nasty combination of U.S. State Department capabilities deployed under a business consulting cover (“Sintemex”) and the above-ground side of a left-environmentalist-terrorist operation. Its usefulness for wrecking everything from republican institutions to economic development plans was apparent—but only with recent events have we learned what a big fish has been caught with this can of worms.

The exposure of the PSD by the Mexican Labor Party (PLM)—[the group which bases its fight for economic development and republican principles on the ideas of the American philosopher-politician Lyndon LaRouche]—has unearthed the name of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. The story is now coming out of 40 years of illegal FBI infiltration into Mexico.

In late April, the dossier that the PLM had compiled on the PSD went to Mexican Interior Ministry with a request that the PSD's registration as a legal party be revoked because it was foreign-controlled. The PSD's response was to spread the charge that the PLM is a front for the CIA. In this campaign it was joined by the Popular Socialist Party and the Socialist Workers Party.

On May 9, with the left howling, the Mexico City daily *El Periódico* revealed that the charges against

the PLM were “furnished by the FBI.”

The presence of the FBI in Mexico is not new, nor is its use of left-wing groups unusual. In a deal struck between British Special Operations Executive and the American intelligence community in 1938, the FBI was given primary jurisdiction for intelligence gathering and operations throughout Latin America. In the case of Mexico, that jurisdiction has remained.

Today there are twice the number of FBI agents in Mexico as there are CIA agents.

Both Mexican and American patriots, of course, have now become very interested in the PSD scandal, and why the FBI is defending the PSD.

In the early 1970s, it is documented, the PSD leadership worked with the immediate controllers of Mexico's most feared urban terrorist gang, the 23rd of September League.

In 1981, the PSD took command of Mexico's fledgling environmentalist movement and directed it against nuclear energy plant construction, the basis of Mexico's goal of becoming a fully industrialized nation by the year 2000. The man in charge of greenie side of the PSD is Adip Sabag, who, in 1976 ran “opinion polling” on behalf of the Mexican Communist Party.

Sabag is also known to confer regularly with the bishop of the Antiochian Church in Mexico, Chedrawi, who is said to be the key

figure in Arab terrorist capabilities in Mexico and Central America.

The PSD-FBI connection is not the only place that the grimy fingerprints of the G-men have appeared in Mexico. Perhaps more important—and threatening—is the fact that the FBI has also played a major role in an attack on Mexico's highest-level security and intelligence capability, the Dirección Federal de Seguridad (DFS).

The FBI released charges at the end of March against the former head of the DFS, Miguel Nassar Haro, on accusation of complicity in a car theft ring in San Diego. It soon became apparent that it was not Nassar Haro that the FBI was interested in: it was crippling the independent intelligence capability of the DFS as a whole, at a moment when Mexico faces live threats of “Iranization.”

On March 23 the FBI, working through San Diego U.S. attorney Thomas Kennedy, claimed that the FBI investigation had been hampered because Nassar Haro was the CIA's chief Mexico contact and the CIA did not want his position compromised.

The sharing of certain classes of information between U.S. and Mexican intelligence services is a customary and long-standing arrangement. But the Justice Department/FBI “revelation” set off an anti-CIA witchhunt in the leftist press. On April 15, the Mexican Congress was obliged to name a special investigating commission.

The FBI's name never even entered the debate. Now, three weeks later, its role is beginning to come under close scrutiny.

Next week: the 45-year history of illegal FBI activity in Mexico.