

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Razones's reasons to go to the IMF

Advisers linked to McNamara's Overseas Development Council want acceptance of the IMF's conditionalities.

Rumors are flying here that Mexico will soon go to the International Monetary Fund to get a desperately needed infusion of loans. Businessmen have reported to *EIR* that the decision has been made to swallow some national pride and accept the conditionalities which usually accompany such loans (see article, p. 6).

This brings to my mind the fact that the most ardent proponent of the IMF path recently has been a group of economists, sociologists and journalists who are entrenched in the magazine *Razones*.

Making a deal with the IMF would signal "an expression of confidence by the highest financial authority that we can solve our economic problems," the magazine said in an editorial earlier this month.

Razones presented its pro-IMF reasons conveniently the same week as a vicious speculative assault on the peso forced the López Portillo government to adopt a dual exchange system.

Such a servile attitude toward the "highest authority" of the British-created Bretton Woods system is not necessarily strange among some circles here. What makes *Razones's* pro-IMF position particularly important is the influence that some of its contributors seem to have on President-elect Miguel de la Madrid.

The *Razones* crowd is especially strong in a task-force recently formed by the PRI ruling party to produce a government program for de la Madrid. The task force is composed of multiple ad hoc commissions on for-

eign affairs, industry, culture, agriculture and other areas.

The magazine's editor-in-chief, Samuel del Willar, is head of the task-force's "Commission on Moral Renovation." The presence of radical promoters of the "Christian-Marxist dialogue" such as *Razones* writer Miguel Angel Granados, on the commission makes the content of this "new morality" rather suspicious.

But more suspicious than anything are the group's international connections—to such centers of Malthusian and zero-growth ideologies as the Club of Rome of Aurelio Peccei, the Brandt Commission and the U.S.-based Aspen Institute.

The group is closely linked to the Washington-based Overseas Development Council (ODC) headed up by Vietnam War instigator, Robert McNamara. *Razones's* correspondent in the United States, Katherine Thorup, co-directs a Mexico-U.S. study group of the ODC.

As official representative of the Brandt Commission in the United States, the ODC is a key promoter of genocidal low-growth policies for the Third World and is now concentrating on a project to destabilize and destroy the Mexican economy.

No doubt Mr. de la Madrid would be rather amazed that his advisors' friends in Washington have plans to "force Mexico to the edge . . . and plunge the country into chaos," as expressed recently by an ODC official.

The magazine also heavily overlaps with the "Tepotzlán Group,"

whose members include Club of Rome members Saburo Okita (former Japanese Foreign Minister) and Victor Urquidí, head of the Colegio de Mexico. As previously reported in this magazine, the Colegio de Mexico is the main vehicle of zero-growth thinking into this country's academic world.

The Tepotzlán Group—which includes *Razones* collaborators Manuel Camacho and Jorge Hernández Campos, first came to our attention over a year ago, when they were actively organizing a symposium on Mexican affairs with the "mother" of U.S. environmentalism, the Colorado-based Aspen Institute.

Some prudent political circles probably relaxed when this symposium failed to take place: Nonetheless, in June 1981, the Tepotzlán crowd managed to bring here the environmentalist movement's "granddaddy" himself, Aurelio Peccei, for a meeting on "technetronics." They also managed to have the Secretary of Planning and Budget (SPP) co-sponsor this meeting.

Last month Camacho traveled to Washington to brief certain think tanks and others on what foreign policy de la Madrid will be following. According to the Mexican press he visited such liberal quarters as the Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA).

Days after the meeting, COHA put out a document asserting that de la Madrid would discard López Portillo's Central American policy and that such a conclusion was based on discussions with Camacho.

The party's president, Pedro Ojeda Paullada, had to publicly refute the document and de la Madrid went to the press to state that he indeed will follow the guidelines outlined by President López Portillo in his Central American policy.