

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Who runs the PAN Party?

For many, the question was answered in a secret meeting between PAN leaders and U.S. consular officials in Sonora.

A national scandal erupted here after journalists and federal investigators uncovered a secret meeting between the high command of the National Action Party (PAN) and U.S. consulate and embassy personnel in Sonora.

The PAN, which the State Department describes to U.S. callers as "like the Republican Party in the United States," has been in court for running death squads, promotes Protestant fundamentalist cults, protects the dope trade, and is fueling a form of Sonoran separatism that could lead to the state's secession from the country.

The meeting that has shocked the nation took place April 22, four days after U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz came here for bilateral talks.

One question raised by the May 6 discovery of the PAN-U.S. consulate meeting: "Is the Kissinger-controlled U.S. State Department trying to destroy President Reagan's policy toward Mexico?" PAN deputy Andrés Cáceres went on record May 10 with an attack on Mexico's anti-drug program, Operation Condor, for allegedly "intimidating peasants" who are opposed to the government. This is the drugrunners' line to stop the highly effective program.

The Sonoran participants in the clandestine meeting included Archbishop Carlos Quintero Arce, the most powerful church figure in the north of the country; Javier Castelo Parada, a leader of the local oligarchy, known as the "Sonoran Onassis;" PAN gubernatorial hopeful Adalberto Rosas

López; and Sonoran PAN president Carlos Amaya Rivera. All are leading a mass movement to wrest control of the state from the federal government (which they label "socialist") and make the state's economy the fiefdom of local oligarchs.

The meeting in the Sonoran capital, Hermosillo, was organized by the U.S. consul there, Antonio Arredondo. It featured the Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. embassy in Mexico City, George High, who was accompanied by five official and unofficial advisers, according to reports in the press: Jack Zagguri, Willy Wright, Jane Thatcher, Norman Levi, and Francisco Rojas Tavares—all U.S. citizens. Arredondo failed to inform the Mexican government of the meeting.

After reviewing the information, a local leader of the PRI national government party, Héctor Manuel Parra, was emphatic about the treasonous nature of the PAN. "The people don't have any more doubts about who the PAN's bosses are," he said.

Last summer the *EIR* issued an exhaustive report which concluded that the PAN is being deployed against the Mexican government in coordination with U.S. diplomatic personnel in the country. That conclusion is now confirmed.

What role U.S. Ambassador to Mexico John Gavin has had in the U.S. entanglement with the PAN is still open to question. Gavin's family on his mother's side is active among the oli-

garchical set in Sonora.

The U.S. State Department is not talking about the meeting. But other participants are. PAN leader Rosas López told the press that the secret meeting included "a thorough review of the economic, political, and social situation in the state and the country." Archbishop Quintero Arce admitted that the meeting included discussion of "the value of the peso to the dollar." The PAN was a chief promoter of the 1982 waves of capital flight that led to massive devaluations of the peso. The archbishop's admission has led the press here to question if the meeting had as one of its topics how to further damage the Mexican economy.

As part of its plan to dismember the nation, the PAN has been giving political and economic support to Protestant evangelical sects like those that have been spawned under the rule of Guatemalan "born again" butcher Efraín Ríos Montt.

The PAN mayor of Hermosillo, Casimiro Navarro, made a big show of trouping his whole family off to a recent Second Coming Is Nigh cult session led by Argentinian evangelist Luis Palau. Palau was the star of the giant revival session organized by Ríos Montt in Guatemala City last November. The PAN leader's endorsement of the gathering, which was repeated 10 nights in a row outside the capital, was used to herd thousands into the cult activities.

Collaboration between the PAN and State Department officials in Hermosillo is known to go back to at least 1967, when the then-director of the U.S. Information Service (now, USICA) played a role in the formation of the Movimiento de Integración Cristiana (MICOS), a paramilitary youth group modeled on Hitler's brown-shirts and linked to right-wing death squads in South America.