

The PAN party is the State Department's best asset for promoting separatism in Mexico

by Timothy Rush

The announcement June 6 that Presidents Ronald Reagan and Miguel de la Madrid will meet on the U.S.-Mexico border in August is welcome news. It will be the first summit between the United States and Mexico in almost two years, and it comes at a moment when decisive intervention from the top levels of the two governments is required to prevent a catastrophic deterioration in relations across the Rio Grande. Already, the IMF-directed collapse of the Mexican economy has meant the loss of over \$10 billion per year in U.S. exports to Mexico, with a consequent loss of up to 300,000 jobs. In Mexico, the IMF austerity program has meant the postponement or elimination of every significant development project in the country. Large numbers of poorer people are dropping to subsistence levels or lower; the middle class is being wiped out at a rate comparable to that of Germany in the 1920s.

On top of the economic crisis and the Central American conflagration comes the possible adoption this summer of the racist Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigration legislation.

But there is more to the summit than defusing bilateral tensions. The personal warmth Reagan feels for Mexico makes the upcoming meeting one of the best avenues for negotiation of broader agreements which address the Latin American debt crisis as a whole. "Operation Juárez," as Lyndon LaRouche has dubbed the fight for a form of debt reorganization which revives trade and production, takes its name from the collaboration between Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Benito Juárez over a century ago; Reagan and de la Madrid have a unique opportunity to set policy for the continent on the same basis.

Saboteurs in both countries are committed to seeing that the opportunity is squandered. *EIR* this week examines one of the nastiest bi-national efforts to disrupt relations and undermine Mexico's sovereign institutions. U.S. embassy and consular personnel call it "Operation 'Two-Party System'"; it in fact involves plans to dismember Mexico territorially, starting at both its northern and southern borders.

The PAN party, a solidarist grouping founded as an asset of the Nazi International in 1939 and continuing to function as such today, is the State Department's most important vehicle for the separatist maneuvers. From its earliest days, the PAN took root in the states furthest from Mexico City, areas with a history of separatist tendencies: the northern tier of states running from Baja California on the Pacific to Tamau-

lipas on the Gulf, passing through Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo León; and at the opposite end of the country, Chiapas and the Yucatán.

The cover for coordinating the PAN as a separatist force is establishment of a "two-party system . . . just like the United States." Though plausible to the uninformed, in the Mexican context—where the PRI party has held power for over a half century and there are not one, but seven, legally registered opposition parties—such a policy has entirely different implications.

The British Intelligence-linked *Economist* magazine, in a February 1980 editorial, told America how "the lessons of Iran" should be applied to U.S.-Mexico relations. The London weekly wrote, "In dealing with Mexico, a country with a monolithic political structure, America will find itself in the old quandary of how to communicate with the opposition movement, most of it underground. . . . Unilateral support for the ruling PRI would allow the U.S. little room for maneuver." It was obvious that the *Economist* was not so much interested in forestalling an Iranization process as running it.

'Scurrilous attacks'

A shocking harangue by U.S. Ambassador John Gavin in Los Angeles May 24 was the tip-off that the British formula is now guiding certain State Department circles. Gavin virtually demanded an apology from Mexico for what he called "scurrilous attacks" on a secret meeting between embassy personnel and the PAN leadership in the state of Sonora at the end of April. He went so far as to threaten a cut-off U.S. economic aid to Mexico if Mexico protested further—an extraordinary escalation of the affair, especially in light of the ambassador's insistence that the meetings had no more significance than meetings between Mexican officials and members of the Democratic Party in the United States.

What in fact is involved is a nested set of operations encompassing separatism, drug- and weapons-smuggling, terrorism, and religious manipulation from Protestant fundamentalism to solidarism. The ultimate goal is to squeeze Mexico between a Guatemala-inflamed border on the south and a secessionist north.

Sonora center

Sonora is the centerpiece of PAN strength and of U.S.-

PAN collusion (see *EIR* March 8, 1983; March 15, 1983; May 24, 1983; and June 7, 1983). A cartoon in the leftist *Uno Mas Uno* newspaper May 20 showed a figure of Uncle Sam seated at a table. The waiter is offering him a map of Sonora, shaded black, and telling the customer, "Our specialty is PAN *negro* [black bread]."

From Sonora (and from Monterrey further to the east), connections radiate out to the other states. According to a May 24 exposé in *Excelsior*, Sonoran PAN money is now pouring into neighboring Chihuahua. Sonora PAN honchos are building the bandwagon for the PAN gubernatorial bid in Baja California Norte, which comes up later this year. And PAN-linked oligarchical groups in Monterrey recently had a survey published showing that 50 percent of the population of Nuevo León state (whose capital is Monterrey) are open to political union with the north.

The U.S. embassy and consular huddle with the PAN in Sonora April 22, which became a national scandal, was one of a whole series of consultations the U.S. embassy had begun at the beginning of the year in at least three states, according to *Excelsior*. Meetings were also held in Chihuahua and Monterrey. In each the message was delivered that "the U.S. government views the Mexican two-party system with profound sympathy."

The participants in the meetings included more than the PAN core. In Sonora, it included the archbishop of Hermosillo, PAN sympathizer Carlos Quintero Arce; in the other meetings, it included a spectrum of other "conservative" groupings in the Catholic Church, the business sector, and community organizations. The purpose of the meetings was "to examine the proportions of the economic crisis in Mexico," evaluate its political effects, and establish a "reliable" consensus regarding middle class response to the domestic and foreign policies of the Mexican government. By foreign policies, the U.S. embassy personnel conducting the meetings meant Central America. An *Excelsior* source at the Hermosillo meeting reported that even archbishop Quintero Arce was taken aback by the detailed exposition given by George High, U.S. embassy deputy chief of mission, on the Mexican church's approach to Central America; the positions of radical priests in the southern states of Oaxaca, Morelos, and Chiapas; and similar matters. "You [in the embassy] have much more information on us ourselves that we can imagine," Quintero reportedly exclaimed. The American officials then steered discussion to the topic of the "lack of credibility" of the Mexican political system.

The PAN's involvement with spreading the Central American poison into Mexico is underscored by its sponsorship of proselytizing tours by Ríos Montt's favorite preacher, Luis Palau, in Mexico, and the PAN's hosting of Venezuela's most influential "hawk" on Central American policy, Aristides Calvani, during Calvani's early May tour through Mexico and Central America.

The purposes of Gavin's own trip to Central America in mid-April have yet to be clarified.

The outlines of the broader project were delivered to a select seminar on Mexico at the Snowbird Foundation of Salt Lake City, Utah, April 20 to 23, which featured ambassador Gavin and insurrectionist Mexican business leader Manuel Clouthier. Officials of the Foundation refuse to disclose any details of the discussion, nor in fact who else was present. An investigative reporter in Mexico City obtained excerpts of the Clouthier address, and published them May 19. Clouthier asserted that "it is evident that what is occurring in the deep insides of the [Mexican] system . . . could well be defined as a transitional step toward a new political model. The PAN, the traditional favorite of the anticommunist right, has now managed to take a spectacular leap in votes, above all in the urban areas." Clouthier concluded with the assur-

Gavin warns Mexico

On May 24, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico John Gavin spoke to the World Affairs Council of Los Angeles. The speech was a combination of warnings that Mexico's ills were due to its attempt to industrialize at a rapid pace and threats that efforts by Mexico to impede U.S. coordination of Mexican opposition parties would bring a cut-off of U.S. aid. The fact that no U.S. press picked up the policy address suggests that it may not have had the authorization of Washington.

On meetings with the PAN: Gavin began here with a review of the U.S. government's role in recent bail-out packages for Mexico. The ambassador continued: How do the Mexicans react to our generosity? Their "attitudes are conditioned by old hostilities and new fantasies." The "power of suspicion can be seen in the events surrounding my deputy's recent visit to Hermosillo." The Mexican press "made an issue of the dinner which the deputy attended" because members of the PAN were present, and charged that the dinner represented a conspiracy with the PAN—charges which are "scurrilous and false. . . . We have no intention or desire of interfering in domestic affairs. . . . But just as we would not tell the Mexican ambassador not to meet with the Democrats, we reserve the right to meet with legitimate opposition parties in Mexico.

"The Mexican government should understand that when wild charges are made for domestic political gain, the Mexican people may shrug them off as more of the same old thing, but the American people are listening, and they won't shrug it off. They may question our ability to continue the use of tax dollars to finance a government which is hostile to America."

ance that "other groups of Mexicans, among whom I include religious entities, are ready to participate in the struggle for power."

Many have suggested that the PAN in Sonora welcomed the revelations about the secret meeting, because it catapulted that section of the party into greater national prominence and posed for the government the awkward choice of de facto acquiescence to such meetings or attempting to strip the PAN of legal status—a tricky question when the United States had made its interest in the matter so clear, and when the government is attempting to show its 1977 "political reform" is for real.

Mexican officials are now wondering what will become of detailed profiles of Sonoran institutions and political forces collected by a taskforce of 14 sociologists, anthropologists, and journalists dispatched to the state for two months under cover of assignment by the *Arizona Daily Star* of Tucson in March and April. A 48-page supplement on Sonora published by the *Star* May 22 included no less than three separate articles building up the PAN role in the state, but otherwise kept the more sensitive information collected in the probe under wraps.

At the other end of the country, in Chiapas, the PAN

stronghold district of Soconusco is stepping up links to Guatemala. Chiapas vacillated for almost 30 years after Mexican and Guatemalan independence in 1821, before deciding to cast its fate on the Mexican side. To this day Masonic networks in the Soconusco area (the Pacific slope of Chiapas, one of Mexico's leading coffee-growing areas) are largely Guatemalan in ancestry; the same networks have provided the nurturing-ground for PAN strength. It has been reported that information on Mexican response to border provocations by Guatemalan Ayatollah Ríos Montt, and general intelligence on Chiapas, is regularly passed by the PAN to Guatemalan intelligence officers.

On June 7, the Trotskyist PRT (Workers' Revolutionary Party) announced its support for a Soconusco secessionist effort launched by a previously unknown "student-worker-peasant" front. The PRT, exposed a year ago as a covert partner of the PAN, has made the alliance more and more public in recent months. When three national parties recently demanded that the PAN be outlawed for its anti-constitutional, secessionist, activity, it was the PRT which protested more loudly than the PAN itself.

Next: The terrorist and religious dimensions.

PAN: The new Inquisition

The origins of the PAN in Nazi-linked solidarist circles of Europe of the first half of the century is recounted in the *EIR* exposé entitled, "The New Inquisition: the Mexican PAN party," published in the Aug. 10, 1982 issue.

The branch of the party specifically defended by Gavin, that based in Sonora, has been implicated in a series of violent attacks in the northwest since last summer. On May 10, PAN deputy Andrés Cázeres, from the neighboring state of Sinaloa, attacked the government's anti-drug program because it "oppressed the peasants," confirming evidence that the PAN colludes with the powerful drug mafias in the area.

Highlights of the PAN rampage are as follows:

- *July-August, 1982:* PAN activists blocked roads and burned government offices in several parts of the state, to intimidate election boards meeting to certify results of July balloting.

- *August 27, 1983:* Two thugs who had backgrounds as bodyguards for U.S. consul Terry Hansen and for PAN Mayor Casimiro Navarro, were arrested by state police for armed threats against the lives of Mexico Labor Party (PLM) organizers in Hermosillo. Papers found on the gunmen showed they were involved in the formation

of a Central America-style death squad, called "Death to the Corrupt Ones." They were on their first assignment. The PLM organizers were distributing leaflets attacking the collusion of the PAN and the State Department.

- *February 24, 1983:* As the PAN's gubernatorial candidate, Adalberto Rosas, prepared to enter Ciudad Obregón for a campaign stop, his lieutenants in the town deployed 150 thugs to bust up a 3,000-person meeting of the PLM in the central market. The squadristi attack was directed by one Leonardo Reichel Urroz, a mentally erratic homosexual who participated in terrorist activity as a member of the People's Armed Revolutionary Forces (FRAP) in the 1970s, and PAN women's leader Concepción Retamoza de Figueroa.

- *March 11, 1983:* The same PAN figure, Concepción Retamoza, showed up at the El Quinto normal school outside Obregón with three others and incited students to support a group of supposed students inside the city who had just taken over several building sites. The leader of the group inside the city was Ramiro García Godoy, a member of the FRAP with Reichel Urroz in the 1970s. Eight vehicles supplied by the PAN, including the personal car of Claudio Dabdoub, Rosas's campaign manager, carried the El Quinto students into town, where they looted and stoned several stores and attempted to storm the municipal building. The governor was forced to dispatch 600 anti-riot police to contain the violence.