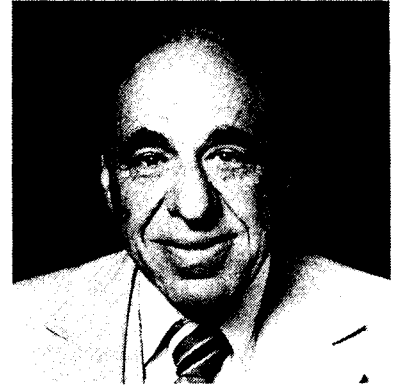


---

## Interview: Rep. Henry Gonzalez

---



# 'Kissinger is a private State Department peddling influence in Central America'

*On Aug. 30, in an exclusive interview with EIR, Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) announced his plans to introduce a "Resolution of Inquiry" on Henry Kissinger's conflicts of interest as chairman of the President's Commission on Latin America.*

*Representative Gonzalez telegraphed President Reagan on Aug. 25: "I sincerely request you dissolve the so-called bipartisan Commission on Central America or at least remove Kissinger from Commission. The continued presence of Kissinger taints the Commission because of his conflict of interest as head of Kissinger Associates. . . ."*

*Representative Gonzalez, who has represented San Antonio for 22 years in Congress, now ranks third on the House Banking Committee. In 1981, he wrote a Resolution calling for Paul Volcker's impeachment as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. In 1976, Representative Gonzalez chaired the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which, after exhaustive investigation, concluded that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was not the work of a lone assassin, as the Warren Commission reported, but was the work of a conspiracy. EIR's Anita Gallagher conducted the interview.*

**Gallagher:** You have called on the President to disband his Commission on Central America or else remove its chairman, Henry Kissinger, for conflict of interest. Why?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** That's right, I have called upon the President to do that. Kissinger has profited, and continues to profit from such things as even the arms sales in Central America. . . . If Kissinger, in his role as chairman of this commission, holds himself out as a sort of a private State Department, which is what he's been doing since he formed Kissinger Associates, I don't see how the President can be anything but a party to it.

I intend to follow through anyway. At this point, I am

researching—and I always do that—and preparing a Resolution of Inquiry into all this. The moment we get back, God willing, on Sept. 12 or thereabouts, I intend to introduce that resolution. It is a privileged resolution, and if I introduce it, I don't think they can shove me aside. I think that somebody is going to have to listen up there.

As for Kissinger's appointment, I think it's terrible. . . . Kissinger has not one, but several conflicts of interest. He's also a paid consultant for the Chase Manhattan Bank, and also a paid consultant for another international firm. He is really a magnified personal private State Department peddling influence, that's all he's doing.

**Gallagher:** What is his relationship to these arms sales?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Well, look at most of the business thus far carried out through, or aided and abetted by, Kissinger Associates, and at some of the activities of some of the associates, from Lord Carrington to William D. Rogers. For instance, William D. Rogers is an agent, and has been an agent, for the Sandinista government in the procurement of arms, and also for other governments. So that most of this consultation really is along those lines.

There is a daily trek on the part of most ambassadors and diplomats from European countries, from Third World countries, making a beeline for his consultation services because of, and especially now, since his recognition by President Reagan, but beginning with his influence over Secretary of State Shultz, who immediately after he took office, brought in Kissinger as a sort of an unofficial consultant. . . . Once these foreign entities find that out, you can't blame them for using those resources to try to gain influence. And that's all it is. It's an influence-peddling, private State Department that Mr. Kissinger has set up.

**Gallagher:** On your privileged Resolution of Inquiry, who would make such an inquiry?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Well, it's a resolution that has to be referred to some committee. And that committee then is charged with the responsibility of conducting the inquiry along the specific lines set forth in the resolution. And it has to. It has to inquire along those specific lines of interrogation. And the question I want to ask is whether Mr. Kissinger is relinquishing his activities and his role as the head of Kissinger Associates while he serves as chairman of the so-called bipartisan Commission on Central America. If so, it hasn't been said. I don't think he has, nor do I think he will. . . .

**Gallagher:** How do you think nations in Central and South America regard Kissinger?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Kissinger is regarded as the pernicious National Security Council head and then, Secretary of State, who is primarily responsible for what they consider to be the murder of [Chilean President Salvador] Allende. His further cold-blooded appointment of Harry Schlaudeman as the executive secretary of this Commission was astounding, to say the least, if not insulting, because he was the CIA station chief at the time Allende was murdered, and was involved in the plotting and the planning.

So that, with these two things, I think the opinion is solid in all of Latin America, in all spectra of thinking, from conservative to liberal to whatever, that President Reagan has shown an insensitivity, and is embarked on an inexorable course of war in Latin America. They suspect that he's trying to pull a Maggie Thatcher, for domestic political reasons. . . .

If the President indeed looks upon this as a political adventure that is going to reward him just like it did Maggie Thatcher in her last election, he is making an egregious error, because Maggie Thatcher didn't have 2,000 Marines in Lebanon, she didn't have two thousand 82nd Airborne 400 miles up above in the Sinai, she doesn't have 300,000 troops in Germany, she doesn't have 45,000 in Korea, and Ronald Reagan does. And since then, the maneuvers in Egypt, and the operation in Chad, all simultaneous. That's just not right. The military are very, very concerned. But what can they do? They're good soldiers.

**Gallagher:** At the time of the British invasion of the Malvinas, did you publicly criticize the President for supporting Britain against the Malvinas?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** The American press never has reported the intensity with which the Latin American countries reacted, and the degree of anger and hurt, when the United States sided—wasn't even neutral—but sided with England, and helped it physically. The extent of the help we gave England has yet to be reported, but it was substantial. And this aroused these nations. Such longtime friends of America as President Bellunde Terry of Peru, were so indignant that they wouldn't even talk to our diplomats. They refused to even sit down. . . .

**Gallagher:** On policy solutions for this area. There has been a great deal of talk about the debt burden of these countries. What do you think of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** It's terrible. I fought the \$8.5 billion increase for the IMF. In the first place, the IMF, like the Bretton Woods agreement, is dead. I said, "giving money to the IMF is like giving a transfusion to a corpse." And this is what it amounts to. The only reason for it is to bail out some of these banks who shouldn't be bailed out to begin with. In Latin America there is quite a substantial segment of opinion . . . that a lot of this show of force is really to intimidate them and remind them that the banks must be paid. And this is tragic.

**Gallagher:** Is this related to the Kissinger appointment?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Yes, this is what I said a while ago. I look upon his involvement with Chase Manhattan Bank as a conflict of interest, too, because Chase Manhattan is one of the banks that has one of the biggest stakes in the Latin American debt situation. I know it does in Mexico. I think it's just atrocious, but when people say "Our soldier boys are being used as collection agents for Chase Manhattan," they're telling the truth, they're not exaggerating.

**Gallagher:** Is support for the IMF in our nation's interest? Does the IMF produce jobs, as some argued on the floor of the House in July?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** No. In the debate over the IMF, I said that the thing that angered me the most was that even the AFL-CIO was using that sucker bait that this was going to bring jobs. On the contrary, it's losing jobs for America, because of the conditions imposed. In Mexico alone, for instance, because of the IMF conditions, in less than 11 months, we lost 83 percent of our export sales, creating a 23 percent unemployment up and down the Mexican border here in Texas and into the interior. . . . In Mexico, the IMF imposed restrictions were of such a nature that they had to curtail imports. Well, 80 percent of those were American. So that destroyed jobs—it didn't create jobs in the United States.

**Gallagher:** More and more Brazilians support a break with the IMF and a rescheduling of the debt. Do you think there will be a declaration of a debt moratorium by the Ibero-American countries?

**Rep. Gonzales:** Yes, there's no question about it. They're going to get together. I understood that there was going to be a debtor countries meeting, and that would be its purpose. And it stands to reason. Some of us have been predicting that sooner or later they were going to band together, and they'll do what Mexico did unilaterally last year, and just tell our officials, "Hey, look, we're not going to pay you, period."

I was in on a briefing given months later by one of the assistant secretaries of the Treasury, and he was still shaken as a result of the midnight meeting in which the Mexican

officials just told them to their face “We’re just not going to pay.” I don’t see how in the world anything else is going to happen. In other words, there’s a limit to how long they can keep on pyramiding.

**Gallagher:** When this happens, should the United States support a debt renegotiation?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** In December, when Volcker came in to demand money for the IMF on an emergency basis, I said, “Look, Mr. Volcker, you’re talking about sovereignties over which you don’t have any control, and we don’t have any control. Unless we go in and occupy them, how are you going to get an independent sovereign nation [to pay—AG]? Suppose we don’t bail out the IMF? Are you prepared to help these banks?” He said “Absolutely.” “Well,” I said, “do you have the resources?” He said “We’ll use every single resource available.”

**Gallagher:** What do you think about the Contadora Group’s initiatives on Central America?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Contadora is there because we created the vacuum. We abdicated leadership. . . .

These countries have come in, under the leadership of Mexico and Venezuela, and have tried to do the right thing, the humanitarian thing, which is to try to attenuate the bloodshed. . . . At least that’s what they say their express purpose is. And what have we done? We ridicule them, we refuse to join them. Even after we abdicated our leadership, they’ve come and asked us, “come in with us, please give us your blessing.”

**Gallagher:** In terms of Democratic Party policy, is the presence of Bob Strauss and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros on the Kissinger Commission productive?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** I pointed out here in San Antonio that Mayor Cisneros is one of 11 [on the commission]—you also have Jim Wright [D-Tex.]; you have Michael Barnes [D-Md.], and I think Michael Barnes compromised himself—he is the chairman of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction [on Latin American affairs], and I think he compromised the independence of the first branch of government. After all, the President isn’t paramount, he’s a co-equal.

So, I’ve been critical, because, especially with the appointment of Kissinger, every one of these members became patsies. The moment he appointed them he simultaneously announced this massive deployment of the military. Well, once that’s done, I mean, what advice is he seeking? It makes patsies of them, and that’s what I said Aug. 26, and I said that the bad part is, whether the members accept it in good faith or not, they’re nothing but patsies, stooges, and that goes for everyone of them, from Strauss to Jim Wright. I wasn’t just talking about the Mayor.

**Gallagher:** You’ve mentioned the inaccessibility of both Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Eighteen of Carter’s ad-

visors were members of the Trilateral Commission, as is Henry Kissinger. Do you think this Trilateral influence could be part of the problem you cite with Reagan?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** I don’t really know. I am really not very familiar with the workings or the membership of the Trilateral Commission. Generally, I am always loath to go on guilt by association. I like to go on the record, and on the individuals. And yes, when you put all of these things together, and two and two add up to four, I think that the President, in the men with which the President has chosen to surround himself, has made it clear that the line of reasoning is going to be one-way. . . .

Look at Kissinger. Here was a man who was a surrogate president. . . . He had one President who delegated the presidency to him. He made four secret deals that I don’t even know he ever bothered to report to the President. Half of them haven’t been reported anywhere that I know of. One of them, for instance, was the agreement he made with Israel that if Israel lost its source of oil from Iran, that we would make it up. Well, that was a secret agreement made by Kissinger, and it was never publicized until after the Iranian brouhaha, and that coincided with our oil shortage. Fortunately, Mexico came in and filled the gap. We haven’t been called upon to do it, but we did make that agreement, and it was made unilaterally and singly by Kissinger. . . .

This may sound partisan, but Ronald Reagan didn’t deceive the American people, all he held himself out to be was an actor, and he’s an actor acting out the role of President . . . who has to have scripts, and the scripts are prepared by these fellows. . . .

**Gallagher:** What do you see on the Democratic side?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** I don’t see much hope there either. . . . I hate to be in this position, but I am being honest when I tell you that in my thinking, from Mondale on down—I mean, here we have the country in the throes of some of the worst problems ever, there is no question in my mind that the foreign policy of this President is a disaster, the domestic program isn’t much better, but it’s being parlayed and “PRed” into a recovery. I go out here and talk to my constituents, and there isn’t one of them who thinks we’ve recovered from anything. . . .

We have to wake the sleeping voters. Well, you’re not going to wake a sleeping voter by singing lullabys, and that’s what these [Democratic] candidates are doing, and even the President. The President and these candidates go to every single meeting of ethnic groups and economic groups, and women’s groups, and try to tell them what they want to hear. Not one of them has come up with real hard answers to hard questions, that if they get into office, they’re going to have to face and won’t avoid.

**Gallagher:** In your opinion, then, is the election open for a “dark horse” candidate?

**Rep. Gonzalez:** Yes, it’s wide open.