

Mexico's PAN party prepares insurgency

by Hector Apolinar

Approximately 3,000 shock troops of the Mexican National Action Party (PAN) massed in front of the government offices in the state of Puebla on Jan. 17 for the express purpose of sabotaging the third "State of the State" address of Puebla governor Guillermo Jiménez Morales. During his presentation, a PAN fanatic rose and called the governor a "swine."

Simultaneously, members of the PAN led by the party's former candidate to the Puebla municipal presidency threatened the elected candidates of the ruling PRI party against assuming their elected offices. Puebla, just two hours from Mexico City, is one of the four largest industrial cities in Mexico.

These are the latest incidents in a campaign of terrorist insurgency against the government of Mexico, intended to render the nation ungovernable and pave the way for an Iran-style coup. Mexico has not experienced this level of political terrorism since the period of the 23rd of September League, a Red Brigades-style group that carried out hundreds of assassinations during the mid-1970s. The PAN's campaigns are designed to discredit the democratic system, while building an illegal "parallel government." Last December, the PAN "appointed" its own parallel municipal governments in the important cities of Mazatlán, Culiacán, and Mexicali, as well as in Puebla. The pattern of its "electoral" tactics shows that the PAN is not a political party exercising its legitimate right as the opposition, as the U.S. media present it, but a Nazi movement, working in alliance with the communists and the Soviet KGB to overthrow a Western government and undercut U.S. strategic capabilities.

The Nazi-communist nature of the PAN was identified by *EIR* last year and denounced by *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in a Jan. 5 press release in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Latin America.

A chronology

Last September, the PAN used the "Puebla" terror tactics in the city of Mexicali, bordering on Calexico, California, against the mayor-elect of that city, Santana Peralta. In Mexicali, Santana received innumerable telephone death threats, and his family was victimized by threats from PAN members in the area.

In the city of Mazatlán, Sinaloa, on the Pacific coast, the

president of the municipal election commission was threatened with death if he did not give a municipal election victory to the PAN.

In San Luis Rio Colorado in the state of Sonora, a small city on the border across from Yuma, Arizona, the mayor is a member of the PAN and a protégé of the notorious drug-trafficking clan of Olegario Meráz. Olegario Meráz is currently being sought by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for having ordered the assassination of two DEA agents in the early 1970s.

Last November, PAN members blocked the bridge between Nuevo Laredo and Laredo, Texas for two hours, producing a chaotic situation.

The growth of the PAN, mostly in the northern states of Mexico, overlaps with the increase of drug trafficking all along the border with the United States, in particular in the Sonora-Sinaloa-Baja California Norte corridor. Sinaloa has been one of the leading producers of marijuana, heroin, and cocaine. According to information from Mexican and U.S. authorities, the return of the international drug mafia to the northwest of Mexico has produced near-open warfare; the drug traffickers are supporting "their party," the PAN, in hope of controlling large portions of northwest Mexico.

On Jan. 11, the PAN and its backers were publicly denounced in the city of Mexicali, Baja California, by Khushro Gandhi, representative of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) founded by Lyndon LaRouche, and by Ricardo Olvera, a leader of the Mexican Labor Party. Both political leaders stated to the press that the PAN and the network of drug trafficking which finances it are part of an infrastructure used by terrorists to carry out the assassination of Gen. Robert Ownby, which took place last week in San Antonio, Texas (see article, page 59).

Gandhi's trip forced Mexico's national media to cover the charges against the fascist PAN for the first time. On Jan. 12, the PAN leader of the state of Coahuila, Lorenzo Burciaga, responded that Gandhi's statements were false. The pro-PAN newspaper *El Heraldo*, in its political column "Café Política," commented, "The charge that the PAN is involved in the death of General Ownby verges on slander."

The PAN has found broad support among liberal academics in the United States associated with Charles Manatt of California. On Jan. 18, Clint Smith, deputy coordinator of the Mexican-American Project of Stanford University in San Francisco declared the fascist PAN Mexico's new hope for democratic government. Said Smith:

"I think that the emergence of the PAN as a responsible and effective opposition party will not have the effect of weakening the social fabric, but in fact could even strengthen it."

The chief coordinator on Smith's project, Clark Reynolds, was an adviser to the Carter administration on Mexico. Reynolds is also closely associated with Julian Nava, Carter's ambassador to Mexico. Nava and his group are part of the Charles Manatt group inside the Democratic Party.