

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

A new continental lineup against Henry

The Mexican President's trip to four Latin American countries sets the agenda.

Just a week before President Miguel de la Madrid made his first trip to Ibero-America, Mexican political and financial circles were shocked by the announcement by American bankers of a rise in interest rates.

The half percent rise in the U.S. interest rates means that \$300 million more must be sent out of the country during this year. This is the exact amount the Mexican government had recently decided to set aside for internal investments after paying the foreign debt.

In high-level Mexican circles, the decision by Paul Volcker's Federal Reserve was also interpreted as a new Kissinger offensive against Mexico and Latin America, to destroy any kind of integration between Latin American countries, an idea the Mexican president is working on together with other presidents in the Ibero-American countries.

"For us Mexicans, the Bolivarian ideal which asserts that our fatherland is all America, remains alive," declared President de la Madrid March 12, referring to his trip to Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela, starting March 27 (see article, page 31). The same ideas were posed by Colombian and Argentinian foreign ministers in their visits to Mexico City early in March, putting special emphasis on the debt problem and Central America.

But Henry Kissinger is having a fit over de la Madrid's trip. Kissinger's Mexican cronies are spreading the outrageous lie that for the Latin American governments to join forces to re-

negotiate their debt and develop their economies is "anti-American." This is just the background noise to facilitate a plot by the Soviet KGB, aided by Kissinger, to turn all of Ibero-America against the United States.

What is known here as "the Kissinger house organ," the English-language daily called *The News*, acidly wondered: "A united debtors' front against an increasingly worried creditors' community for greater bargaining power regarding interest rates and a wider door to their exports so that some day payment may emerge from the realm of fantasy?" The possibility was not entirely "far out," it continued: Maybe the President should just stick to "seeing how a few other nations might be faring worse than our own."

Next, the mouthpiece in Mexico for the Swiss-based Mont Pelerin Society, *Impacto* magazine, and the small-time Milton Friedman economist of the right-wing private sector, Pérez Stuart, came out with the Kissinger line. Under a fat headline, "Mr. de la Madrid Can Create More Difficult Times by Himself: The Idea Is to Sink the American System on the Eve of the Elections," Mauricio Gómez Mayorga, a notorious pro-Nazi, put out a long article saying that the de la Madrid trip is a senseless, spendthrift junket. Trying to organize a joint debt renegotiation "smells like [former President] López Portillo's frustrated attempt to declare a joint debt moratorium together with Brazil and Argentina. . . . But this is just an idea of trying to sink the U.S. banking system

as the election campaign approaches in the United States."

As a high-level political source told me, the real meaning of the de la Madrid trip is to organize a continental movement against Kissinger. But the only way to succeed in this is by getting rid of the International Monetary Fund, and that means a debtors' cartel, as in Lyndon LaRouche's *Operation Juárez*, he added. And this possibility—the use of the "debt weapon" to create the conditions for Latin America to industrialize—is what has the Kissinger crowd very worried in Mexico.

Showing its colors as a Nazi-communist, not "pro-American," outfit, *The News* came out again March 20 threatening Mexico with the Iran treatment if it lapses in total obedience to the IMF. Commenting on the triumphant speeches made March 18, during celebrations of the anniversary of nationalizing the petroleum industry, the paper declared that Mexicans must remember what happened to the Shah of Iran when he tried to modernize his country. "Rich nations want the crude, not its costly and sophisticated derivatives. A Rand corporation detailed estimate of the situation over the past few years has been cited, saying that our country would 'of its own weight and making fall into the same trap,'" *The News* added.

The same Kissingerites have targeted Mexico's efforts to promote the peace plan of the Contadora group, the consortium of regional powers including Mexico seeking a regional settlement for the Central American strife. *The News* and *Impacto* attacked foreign minister Bernardo Sepúlveda for his recent trip to France and Germany to win support for Contadora, lying that Mexico is just supporting Marxist and guerrilla factions in Central America.