

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### Moscow joins attacks on labor

*Soviet operatives and Kissinger's networks agree that the labor movement must be split from the government.*

While the Mexican Workers' Federation (CTM) is engaged in a life-or-death battle to prevent what CTM head Fidel Velázquez recently called a "reactionary alliance" from taking power in Mexico, the trade union movement has come under attack from a new quarter: the Soviet "workers' state."

In the March issue of the Soviet monthly *America Latina*, Academician Andrei Sokolov of Lomonosov University blasts the Mexican labor movement for what he calls its "surrender" line, which he attributes to "the influence . . . of the official doctrine of the Mexican revolution."

This "doctrine" is the intense republican nationalism which has permeated Mexican political life since the revolution of 1910. A pillar of this "Mexican system" is the alliance of labor with the government and the ruling PRI party.

The point, says Sokolov, is "to ensure that the organized workers' movement adopts its own [program], allowing it to pass to the stage of coordinated mass actions" against the government.

The communist PSUM party has undergone a turn toward the policy Sokolov demands—no surprise, in view of, among other things, the visit of the general secretary of the PSUM to Moscow in October 1983. The PSUM is working hand in hand with the fascist National Action Party (PAN) to topple the labor-PRI alliance.

"Until the 1960s," Sokolov writes, "the PSUM endorsed the official idea of the Mexican revolution, but they

are now undertaking a concrete analysis of the positions of the different groupings of the local bourgeoisie to clarify which are closely linked with the multinational companies."

This communist attack on the Mexican revolution dovetails with the line Henry Kissinger and the PAN are pushing. Kissinger, at a meeting in June 1983 in Houston sponsored by Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), demanded that Mexico overcome its "nationalism" as a precondition for U.S. aid—and that it back U.S. military policy in Central America, abandoning the Contadora group of Ibero-American nations.

William Buckley, Jr., a Kissinger associate, had demanded that Mexico "crack the labor unions, with their monopolistic extortion." Writing in the *Caracas Daily Journal* of Aug. 3, 1983, Buckley also called on Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to sell public enterprises like the state oil company Pemex and return land to the latifundists.

The drive by Moscow and the Kissingerites to smash the Mexican revolution could not possibly succeed without the help of the International Monetary Fund, whose austerity demands are creating the explosive preconditions for the "mass actions" the Soviets demand.

Under IMF guidelines, inflation of 16.8% far outdistanced wage increases in the first quarter of this year, and the government added insult to injury by permitting the large producers—

including producers of key commodities like milk—to begin quarterly price "adjustments," whereas wages are only adjusted every six months. The government has also authorized "modifications" of fringe benefits for labor and has raised taxes.

This has unleashed a tremendous revolt within the unions, whose leadership is demanding the immediate repeal of these measures, threatening "hard measures" (i.e., strikes).

Fidel Velázquez, the 83-year-old head of the CTM, is hitting back at the political alliances arrayed against him. On April 9, delivering the keynote speech at the statewide conference of the Sinaloa Workers' Federation, Velázquez pledged that the Mexican labor movement "is ready to paralyze the country totally" to prevent a PAN-led, PSUM-supported, "reactionary alliance" from "coming to public power in Mexico."

The CTM, he said, "is on the right course, that of the Mexican revolution."

The Central Committee of the CTM meets April 14-15 to discuss their next moves and an "action program" for the next meeting of the PRI leadership.

According to leaks in the press and the testimony of several observers, the CTM will give complete backing to President de la Madrid in his organizing for a united front of Ibero-American countries. The unions will also ask the government for "flexibility" in the economic program.

But the CTM is also fighting for direct political power. It will discuss in the National Assembly the strategy to follow for the congressional elections scheduled to take place next year. Labor is seeking new congressional seats, and wants to reinforce its power by winning governorships in Sonora, Nuevo Leon, and Estado de Mexico.