

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### Writing about killing the President

*Octavio Paz and Gabriel Zaid join the efforts of the State Department and Soviet KGB to boost the PAN.*

In the June edition of the supposedly cultural magazine called *Vuelta*, which in reality is the illustrated journal of the New Dark Age, the sacred cows of the Mexican intellectual scene, Octavio Paz and Gabriel Zaid, publish two lengthy articles whose clear message can be summed up: If the Mexican government does not give up "a few governorships" to the Nazi-communist National Action Party, then it will run "grave risks."

What risks? Paz lets Zaid say it: a coup d'état, a civil war, an ayatollah, guerrilla warfare or . . . "the assassination of the President!"

This is, in short, the message which, after many pages of historical distortions and verbal tricks in the best style of Paz, and unsuccessful attempts by Zaid to be ironical, is given by this pair of "Mother Conchitas." (In the turbulent Mexican history of the 1920s, it was Mother Conchita who incited the fanatical figure of the "Cristero" movement, León Toral, to assassinate President Alvaro Obregón, the key statesman of the Mexican Revolution.)

The "Ayatollah" Paz, author of the *Labyrinth of Solitude*, is the Mexican link in the international anti-American, progress-hating chain of "intellectuals" and lawyers that includes ex-U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark and others of the authors of the Khomeini takeover in Iran.

Significantly, both articles were

reprinted prominently in the daily paper *Novedades*, and promoted on the Televisa TV channel by Jacobo Zabudowski. Political circles and the press are abuzz. The halo of Paz has served to scare some people and confuse others, diverting attention from the historical falsehoods which Paz permits himself to write "poetically."

Paz's hatred against the republic could not be clearer and this time, it reaches intolerable extremes—like the PAN party itself, which has built up an estimated 60,000 shock troops along the border to foment violence against America and the Mexican central government. Paz starts out with the Big Lie, that "the present regime of Mexico was born in 1929," adding that "once Caesar (Alvaro Obregón) was killed, an intermediary solution was sought. Another historical compromise: the National Revolutionary Party [predecessor of the PRI]." Now, he concludes, in the face of a historical period that has reached its end, the PRI must "share its power with the other political parties."

Zaid's text is as long as the bookshelves of his Benedictine friends, a mixture of translations and creations of his own with supposed "scenarios on the end of the PRI." His message is very clear: "A few governorships under control of the opposition would be enough for the chain reaction to be uncontrollable, to give hope and to decisively revive the whole society, to

unleash the political maturity of the country," concludes Zaid. If not—he goes on ticking off scenarios—the possibility exists of the "assassination of the President."

Such scenarios can and should be interpreted

cause what the sacred cows are doing in these articles is the same thing as was done by the "intellectuals" behind the Italian Red Brigades terrorists, the same thing that the Falangist-Synarchists behind Obregón's assassin, José de León Toral, did in the 1920s: inciting to homicide and covering it up politically by lying that malcontent is so widespread, any citizen unhappy about the lack of democracy and other things, might try to kill his own President.

Mother Conchita told León Toral: "What is indispensable in order to fix things, is that Obregón, Calles, and Patriarch Pérez must die," and when Toral killed Obregón, this merely meant that "it was the environment that forced him to think that way."

Further on in his article, Paz (like the PAN) ferociously opposes technological and industrial development, which he calls "Pharaoh-like plans," and he again attacks former President López Portillo, because he was committed to such plans. He also grumbles about "increase in population."

Among some political circles, which are not exactly those of Paz, these articles have drawn a good deal of comment; and some "scenarios" have been put forward about the disappearance of the new Paz-Zaid couple. One of these is that they might retire from political-intellectual life after contracting AIDS. Another is that the Mexican state, which they hate so much, might stop publishing their articles and cut off the subsidies their publications receive in the form of advertising.