

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Sonora governor pledges to industrialize

EIR was on hand in Hermosillo to witness the inaugurations of the new governor and deputies from Sept. 12 to 16.

Rodolfo Felix Váldez was sworn in as governor of the northern state of Sonora on Sept. 12. His inauguration summed up the defeat of the Nazi-communist National Action Party (PAN), a foreign-orchestrated operation, and culminated an intense political battle between the descendants of the Mexican republic and Moscow's friends in Washington. The PAN had hoped to destroy Mexico's 50 years of political stability under the ruling PRI, by bringing the local, typically violence-prone PAN to power in this border state.

Under heavy security protection, and in front of 2,000 people, Felix Váldez delivered his inaugural speech, pledging to continue "defeating in Sonora those groups who oppose progress." Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid and a high-level delegation which included Mexico's top labor leader, Fidel Velásquez, arrived on the afternoon of Sept. 12, to witness the inauguration at Hermosillo's city hall.

The new governor's call for industrial development will find strong backing from the Mexican Labor Party and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), which in the July 7 elections formed an electoral alliance, winning six electoral posts: one state congress seat and five city council seats. Patricio Estévez, Mexican Labor Party Executive Committee member, and a co-thinker of *EIR*'s founder, renowned American economist Lyndon LaRouche, was sworn in Sept. 16, along with 23 other legislators, in an early morning ceremony

witnessed by Felix Váldez and over 200 enthusiastic citizens.

The PARM ticket on which Estévez ran, campaigned aggressively throughout the election process, denouncing the PAN's U.S. State Department connection and its links to the narco-terrorist apparatus. PARM candidates put forward a program for industrial development and "great projects" for irrigation as a way to integrate Mexico's economic development with the rest of Ibero-America's. For Moscow's friends in Washington, Estévez's victory is perhaps one of the most irritating elements in Sonora's political process.

That the PAN is finished as a credible political option in the state was seen by the way the wealthy private businessmen attended Felix's inauguration en masse. The PAN had hoped to capture part of this private-sector backing—as they have in the states of Nuevo León and Chihuahua—to use it politically against the government.

Felix Váldez, a man with great political experience and a long background in government office, pledged in his inaugural speech to bring forward the "great progress of industrialization" launched by his predecessor, Samuel Ocaña, a process that Felix called irreversible. Sonora's dynamic economy is primarily based on agricultural production.

The new governor promised that under his term, Sonora would not only become self-sufficient, but would start exporting industrial goods, and he called on the state's businessmen to bring back their money and invest it

here. Businessmen from Sonora and Sinaloa are known to have \$7 billion in banks in Arizona alone.

In this context, Felix Váldez stressed the need for higher education to focus primarily on scientific and technological research as "a way to prepare ourselves for the 21st century."

With nothing left but violence and terrorism, the PAN went ahead with their threat to carry out a "parallel" inauguration in which Adalberto Rosas, the defeated PAN candidate for governor, was "sworn in" as the "real popular governor." These "inauguration ceremonies" turned into a pathetic show which several hundred people from around the state were dragged in to observe. The next morning, on Sept. 14, the local newspapers reported this event as just one more protest by the PAN.

Although the PAN did not succeed in provoking violence in Hermosillo, the capital city, their fanatic followers went out of control in Agua Prieta, the Sonora city which borders Douglas, Arizona, 400 kilometers from Hermosillo. They burned down the offices of the city police and set ablaze 20 cars parked near the site. The fire lasted 12 hours, with flames reported 50 feet high. The violence erupted when a group of PAN provocateurs refused to let the new PRI municipal president enter the city hall of Agua Prieta.

In statements to the press, PAN state leader Carlos Amaya blamed the federal government for the violence, and added that a newspaper in Douglas, Arizona, was going to publish the "facts" to support his charges.

The PAN national executive committee representative in the state, Norberto Correa, is reported to be in jail, charged with full responsibility for the violence.