

Will Mexican border be militarized?

by D.E. Pettingell

Drugs, foreign debt, and immigration will be the main issues discussed between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and President Ronald Reagan when they meet in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 13. The official announcement of the one-day encounter was made simultaneously in Washington and Mexico City July 7.

Those who favor good relations between the two nations welcomed the news. Recent developments on this side of the border have brought U.S.-Mexican relations to their worst point in recent history.

Just as the announcement was reaching the world, newspapers on both sides of the border were reporting the latest in a series of incidents unfavorable to bilateral relations. Mexican citizens had an unpleasant encounter with a U.S. paramilitary fascist group claiming to be fighting drugs and illegal immigration along the border.

On July 5, the armed "anti-communist" gang known as Civilian Materiel Assistance (CMA) detained a Mexican family—including women and children—at gunpoint for two hours, three miles north of the Mexican border in Arizona. The Alabama-based group's members wore camouflaged uniforms and carried assault rifles and M-16s, according to press accounts. They both fired their weapons to "scare" the Mexicans, according to witnesses, and violated the law by crossing into Mexican territory. When Border Patrol officials finally arrived, the 15 Mexicans were allowed to return to Mexico. The CMA thugs were not detained, but only given a "warning."

U.S. Customs Service Assistant Commissioner for Enforcement William Rosenblatt told this writer that any American citizen has the right to conduct a "civil arrest"—in effect justifying CMA's behavior.

It seems like a small incident, but the U.S. Eastern Establishment would like nothing more than to turn the Mexican border area into a zone of war, in service of a "New Yalta" plan to shift U.S. troops out of Western Europe and into the Western Hemisphere. Violence on the border would provide the perfect justification to pull American troops out of West Germany, giving the Russians a free hand in Europe.

Iron curtain

"Our allies will protest if we withdraw forces even temporarily from their defense and force them to defend themselves," wrote Rear-Admiral William Mack, USN (ret.) in a

widely circulated blue-print for deserting Europe, entitled, "Let Us Close Our Back Door." It was first printed in April 1985 in *Shipmate* magazine.

"Let them all object. The ability to close our back door . . . is the key to our future national security [emphasis in original]." Mack, the current head of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and former commander of the 1st Fleet, went on to propose an Iron Curtain along the Rio Grande, what he called a "continuous barrier" along the 2,000 mile border, complete with watch-towers every two miles, searchlights, personnel movement sensors—and of course, 120,000 troops, who would have to come back from Europe.

The good admiral never mentions deals with the Kremlin, of course. He told a caller: "It is all a question of resources." In 1984, the idea was seen as "political dynamite." But now, "the administration has come to realize that that's what we are required to do."

CMA is not the only racist gang of nuts whose strings are now being pulled by the liberal Establishment on behalf of Soviet designs on Europe. The so-called Liberty Lobby has also been thrust into the anti-Mexico campaign. In July, this group sent out 100,000 copies of a "fund-raising" letter titled "100 Million Refugees Will Affect Your Life." (Mexico's population is only 80 million.)

The letter, signed by the group's "Task Force on Immigration Control," asks: "Do you know that between 60 and 80 percent of the babies born each year in Los Angeles belong to illegals? and that Florida spends over \$500 million per year for illegals' health care alone?"

The Liberty Lobby echoes Mack's idea of militarizing the border. "Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) suggests putting a Marine every 15 or 20 ft. along the border. We say, YES [capital letters in original], use the Marines—and the Army—to protect our border while we still have a country. That would be much better for the country than having our armed forces everywhere in the world—protecting everyone else but Americans."

The group's newspaper, *Spotlight*, features a special eight-page pull-out titled "America is Being Invaded." "DANGER; American Border Open to Terrorists; National Security Concern; Aliens Take Bite of Your Tax Dollars; Illegals Threaten Your Way of Life; Jail them in Mexico," are some of the headlines.

In its July 7 issue, *Spotlight* published an editorial asking Americans: "How is it possible that 'our Army' is used to 'guard the borders of 41 countries scattered around the globe,' but not our own?"

In short, bring the troops back from Europe—just what Mikhail Gorbachov ordered.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently passed a resolution asking President Reagan to dispatch troops to the border, and on July 9, Count de Borchgrave's *Washington Times* editorialized: "The vast majority of Americans want the border shut. . . . It would take an Army the size of China."