

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

A modern Rasputin

Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari acts like a prime minister on government decisions.

As the time approaches for the naming of the next presidential candidate, which normally would be the middle of next year, those cabinet members dreaming of their presidential careers are displaying their cards without compunction.

Planning and Budget Minister Carlos Salinas de Gortari, although considered by Mexican public opinion too immature for the presidency, is one of the most influential men in the current administration, the co-author of the great economic disaster into which the country is sinking, and mouthpiece of the "New Democracy."

No longer disguising his presidential interests, Carlos Salinas de Gortari made clear during a Sept. 9 interview that he and his team—trained at the Wharton School and the Colegio de Mexico—had written much of the fourth state of the union message, the *Informe*, which President Miguel de la Madrid delivered Sept. 1. Under the pretext of explaining the *Informe*, Salinas engaged in self-promotion.

He said Mexico is not heading toward state capitalism and that the sale of state industries would encourage investment without losing the state's rectorship of the economy. He boasted that Mexico's agreement with the International Monetary Fund and its joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) were great successes.

The "political" component which Salinas and Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett insinuated into the *Informe* proclaimed the emergence of a new society and a new democracy.

The President read in his *Informe*: "Today my government has had to change itself to lead the profound changes the new society is undergoing and to deal efficiently with the difficult and unexpected situations which pressure us." De la Madrid named his electoral reforms as one of his regime's great achievements and announced a new proposal for changing the Federal Law of Organizations and Elections to adapt it to the "New Society."

In Salinas's words, all his regime's economic and political acts "strengthen the democratic aspect of the presidential institution." That is, political participation of new officially registered parties and the Nazi-Communist alliance called the PAN provide "escape valves" for popular rage over IMF austerity.

Salinas de Gortari is alien to preserving national sovereignty and scientifically developing Mexico. He comes from a family of communists. His uncle, Eli de Gortari, a famous professor of Marxist thought at the National University, has always acted as a paid agent of Moscow and was jailed as a professional agitator for his role in the 1967-68 student uprisings.

Carlos himself earned notoriety as a youth for certain abnormal proclivities. Later, Salinas was co-opted by the technocratic Wharton School and the famous Lawrence Klein, formerly of the British Communist Party, who taught him the principles of the post-industrial society so beloved of the Trilateral Commission.

His education as a monetarist and man of "the system" came from his father's side. His father is now a sen-

ator. Carlos's aunt is married to Antonio Ortiz Mena, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank whose flaming monetarism destined him to live in Washington instead of the presidential palace.

Similar influences have been exercised by his intimate friend, Ecology minister Manuel Camacho Solis, the promoter of the Tepostlán Group, a branch of the Malthusian Club of Rome. The cultist Camacho augers "the new society soon to appear, because the old one is extinguishing itself" and rails against traditional values. Camacho has wielded the ecology ministry in total war against whatever industry remains in Mexico.

Salinas de Gortari's power has won him the title of Rasputin of the government palace. He has also won the hatred of the sectors of government, business, and labor which he openly seeks to liquidate. That is an obstacle to his presidential ambitions.

It is no accident that David Rockefeller's Society of the Americas assembled its top Latin America operatives in New York Sept. 10 to hear Salinas pontificate and to dictate their terms for the next government. David Rockefeller, Citibank VP William Rhodes, and Jimmy Carter's Latin American chief Thomas Enders demanded that the next President of Mexico not change any of the economic prescriptions which have been finishing off the national economy at the expense of payments on the foreign debt.

Nothing is decided yet in Mexico. What is being commented on various political circles is that the government of Miguel de la Madrid will go down in history as a transition which laid the foundation for "Fascism with a Democratic Face." If that is what the future holds, someone like Salinas de Gortari will preside over it.