

Dateline Mexico by Héctor Apolinar

Dismantling the Ojinaga connection

Taking out the head of the Chihuahua-based drug ring could ultimately expose a far more important can of worms.

Pablo Acosta Villarreal, the powerful gangster chieftain of the Chihuahua-based marijuana and cocaine trafficking ring known as the "Ojinaga Connection," was killed in a shootout with 60 Mexican federal agents on April 25. The agents had surrounded the Acosta Villarreal ranch some 100 kilometers east of Ojinaga, on the border with Texas, and when the smoke had cleared one of Mexico's most infamous drug kingpins was "taken out."

Acosta's death was the latest of a series of major blows that have been dealt to his extensive network of cocaine and marijuana distribution, a network which extends from California to Texas. Because of the sheer volume of narcotics his ring handled, Acosta was considered number 9 on a list of the 10 most important drug traffickers in all of Ibero-America. Intelligence reports by narcotics authorities in both Mexico and the United States estimate that Acosta commanded an army of 200 "soldiers."

In an earlier column on the "Ojinaga Connection," we reported that Acosta was associated with the infamous "Medellín Cartel" which handled the Colombian connection.

According to information made available only hours after the bloody shootout, the operations against Acosta were backed up by such U.S. agencies as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the FBI, who at the request of the Mexican police had set up a virtual blockade along the U.S.-Mexican border where Acosta's ranch was located, for the purpose of preventing his flight into the United

States. Even a helicopter from Fort Bliss, in El Paso, Texas, was on loan to assist the operation.

Following Acosta's death, the prosecution of the 200 members of his band throughout the surrounding villages in the state of Chihuahua was launched. On April 28, the federal judicial police (PFJ) announced the arrest of one Ernesto Poblano Fernández, 40, on charges of being a leading partner-in-crime of Pablo Acosta. The surprise came when commander Guillermo González Calderoni, the same agent whose operation took Acosta days earlier, told the press that Poblano Fernández was a leading member of the Nazi-Communist National Action Party (PAN) in Chihuahua, as well as the former municipal president of Ojinaga.

EIR has extensively documented the fact that the PAN party received both financial and political support from Oliver North's "Project Democracy" and the "invisible government" in the United States, for the purpose of fostering the political destabilization of Mexico. Elhier Flores, PAN leader in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, declared defiantly that there would be no purge of the party's members due to Poblano's arrest. It is no accident that the PAN is also known in Mexico by the name "Party of Support for the Drug Trade" (*Partido de Apoyo al Narcotráfico*).

On April 9, as part of the operations against Acosta's Ojinaga drug ring, Mexican army troops under the command of General Vinicio Santoyo, raided a luxurious home during

an elaborate party, and arrested one Bechir Bechelani Bachur, one of the principal leaders of the Syrian Nationalist Popular Party, known throughout the world for its terrorist suicide raids in Lebanon. Those arrested with Bechelani were caught with cocaine, opium, and a vast quantity of jewels. Official investigators believe that drug trafficking groups in Mexico exchange illegal narcotics for what are probably "hot" jewels in the United States.

Bechelani tried to get released on bail a few days after the arrest, but was held over for prosecution along with others arrested in the group. Both Bechir and his brother Elias form part of an extensive network of Syrian-Lebanese who live in Mexico and are controlled by or work for the Syrian intelligence service to carry out subversive operations throughout the Western hemisphere.

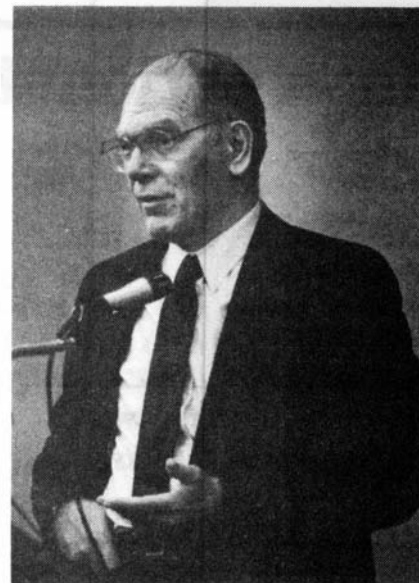
Protector of the Bechelani brothers is the Archbishop of the Orthodox Antiochian Church, Antonio Chedraui, who represents that church in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean (including Cuba), and Colombia and Venezuela.

Chedraui, in turn, is a veteran agent of Syrian intelligence; his family is known throughout Lebanon for its skills in espionage and subversion. Chedraui's sister Asaf was behind the "Profumo" scandal in Britain which led to the fall of a government. Chedraui himself has powerful control over the Mexican-Lebanese community, through his influence in the Maronite Catholic Church headed by Monsignor Jack Najam.

One of the men closest to Chedraui is the Maronite renegade Pedro Sarquis, husband of Martha Lara de Sarquis, who is the secretary general of Chihuahua state's ministry of government.

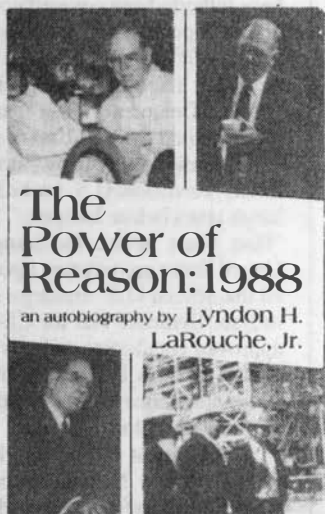
Books by Lyndon LaRouche

- So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?** \$9.95. 1984
- There Are No Limits To Growth** \$4.95 1984
- Why Revival of 'SALT' Won't Stop War** \$3.95 1980
- What Every Conservative Should Know About Communism** \$3.95 1980
- Will the Soviets Rule During the 1980s?** \$3.95 1979
- How to Defeat Liberalism and William F. Buckley** \$3.95 1979
- The Independent Democrats' 1984 Platform** \$5.00
Published by Independent Democrats for LaRouche.
- Program for America** \$10.00. 1985
Published by the LaRouche Democratic Campaign.
- The Power of Reason: 1988** \$10.00



Order from:
Ben Franklin Booksellers, Inc.
27 South King St. Leesburg, VA 22075
(703) 777-3661

Add shipping cost at \$1.50 for first book,
\$.50 for each additional book.
Bulk rates available on request.



LaRouche—at the center of current history

"I have been at the center of some among the leading crisis-developments affecting current history, including the Soviet and liberal establishment efforts to destroy the Strategic Defense Initiative."

—**Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.**

"Lyndon LaRouche is striving to undermine the influence of Communists and other left forces among the workers and student youth."

—**Izvestia, March 12, 1984**

"It's LaRouche's people. He's persecuting me."

—**Henry A. Kissinger, responding to a demonstration in April 1983**

Please send me _____ copies of *The Power of Reason: 1988* by Lyndon LaRouche, at \$10.00 per book (plus postage and handling—\$1.50 for 1 book, \$.50 for each additional book).

Please charge my _____ American Express _____ MasterCard
_____ Visa _____ Diners Club _____ Choice _____ Carte Blanche

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Make checks payable to:

Ben Franklin Booksellers, 27 South King St., Leesburg, Virginia, 22075.