

dium in the Zócalo square in Mexico City, Cárdenas declared: "Against this country [Panama], the United States has revived the policy of the big stick that was practiced at the beginning of the century, directly intervening in the affairs of the Latin American people. This is being done to avoid compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

The next day, for the first time, President Miguel de la Madrid explicitly defended Panama.

Not all roses

Not everything is coming up roses for the FDN. It has been joined by numerous popular organizations, but also by paper organizations whose postulates contradict those of the member parties of the FDN. Such is the case, for example, of the tiny Green Party which, taking advantage of candidate Cárdenas's lack of sympathy for nuclear energy, has sought to turn the FDN into a platform for its ecologist diatribes. Also found within the FDN are organizations such as the Social Democratic Party, with its explicitly malthusian and anti-nuclear principles and its sympathies for the "democratic experiments" of the U.S. State Department in the Philippines and elsewhere.

In fact, a supposed Democratic Assembly for Effective Suffrage has been formed, in which one can find bunched together members of the Democratic Current, individuals affiliated with the FDN, and prominent promoters of the Philippinization of Mexico, such as PANista Norberto Corrella. The idea behind this alleged Democratic Assembly, is to form a front of all the opposition to "defend the vote"—sweet music to the U.S. State Department and its Russian co-thinkers. It is clear, however, that the idea does not please everyone. In fact, the meetings of the Assembly have not been attended by leaders of the three registered political parties which make up the FDN.

That vote fraud is a real danger, however, was expressed by Cárdenas himself, when he warned that an effort to perpetrate massive fraud "could unleash foreign intervention, as in the case of the Philippines and Haiti."

Strange bedfellows notwithstanding, it is becoming increasingly clear that the dynamic of the movement behind young Cárdenas exceeds its own members. The people of Mexico want a change, and it is not the change sought by the U.S. State Department. The question is, will Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas answer the challenge?

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas: Suspend debt payments!

Excerpts from the platform of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas:

The Mexican nation is in a crucial moment of its history, harassed by pressures from abroad, exhausted by the enormous weight of its debts, injustices, and unresolved problems, and in urgent need of a great democratic and revolutionary reconstruction effort.

For the past five years, the country has suffered the consequences of grave deviations from the revolutionary process, accompanied by the governing class's abandonment of the constitutional design and by growing foreign dependency in fundamental aspects of national life. The people have been brutally impoverished, and many individual and social rights have been trampled for the sake of subordination to imperialism and to agreements made with the international financial centers.

We are being turned into a tributary country. Through the wicked exploitation of human labor and the deterioration of the population's living conditions, resources are piled up to be transferred abroad.

The stubborn servicing of an unpayable debt at the cost of economic growth and people's well-being has

caused Mexican workers to lose more than half of their buying power during the past five years. . . . We have been chained to an endless series of refinancings to pay interest on existing debts. By this path, the country has been turned into a net capital exporter. . . .

We must substantially change our international economic relations, suspending and adjusting debt payments and reestablishing our sovereign control over economic processes in order to begin rebuilding the country. . . . For this we propose:

A) Suspend debt service payments until equitable conditions be achieved, readjusting the principal, reducing interest rates, and limiting payments to a lower percentage of our export income, after having satisfied the requirements of national development. Forbid contracting new debts to pay old, as well as letters of intent and any other international arrangement harmful to the country's interests.

B) Stop sales of assets of Mexican companies in exchange for debts and regulate the sale of natural resources to foreigners, to safeguard the patrimony of future generations. . . .

D) Begin economic reconstruction, allocating a high percentage of the national product to productive investment and channeling the resources freed by the lowering of foreign debt payments into development. . . .

G) Make science the country's top priority, develop research, encourage innovation, systematically raise productivity.