

Representative Mickey Kantor, published by *Clarín* on March 27, Menem warned the Clinton administration that it had better wake up to the hemispheric danger which the Chiapas terrorists represent.

"If we act quickly, we could stop the explosion from spreading throughout Latin America. In a small country like Guatemala, with 4 million people, there are 28 ethnic groups. That's dangerous. Ask the President of Ecuador about the repercussions of Chiapas in his country," Menem reportedly told Kantor. To Kantor's protests that Mexican President Salinas seemed to have the situation under control through negotiations, Menem shot back: "In such a situation, I would not have sat down to negotiate with hooded ones. That's how you institutionalize violence. It is not known who is behind the hoods. . . . We would not have acted in that manner. And I believe the United States would not have done it, either."

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## Documentation

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# British media orchestrate coverup of Colosio murder

*Within hours of the killing of PRI candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, the British media, led by the Financial Times, launched a campaign of crafted lies to cover the tracks of the real conspirators. Two big lies were put into circulation: first, that Mario Aburto was a deranged "lone assassin"; and second, when the evidence made that story virtually impossible to sustain, the lie that Aburto was working with "hardliners" in the PRI, the Mexican military, or even President Carlos Salinas de Gortari himself. Below is a chronology of some of the principal statements made in and to the press peddling these two lines, which clearly shows the British origin of the campaigns.*

**March 24**, 8:50 a.m., on Good Morning America, interview with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico James Jones: "There's no indication of any kind of a tie-in [to the Chiapas uprising]. What it appears so far, this was a random act of violence with no organized effort behind it. . . . These random acts of violence happen to us more often than we care to recall. This is the first time it's happened in Mexico in over six decades."

**March 25**, *Financial Times*: "As of yesterday there was no indication of any conspiracy."

**March 25**, *Financial Times*: "But unless it emerges that Mr. Colosio's assassins were agents or elements in the Mexican ruling party, the re-opening of NAFTA seems highly improbable."

**March 25**, *New York Times*: "No evidence emerged [that] . . . Aburto had any political connections or was tied in any way in the recent peasant uprising in Chiapas . . . the authorities were confident that the man in custody was the one and only gunman. . . ."

**March 25**, *Los Angeles Times*, commentary by Mexico's Jorge Castañeda: "It will not be easy to convince the country of what exactly happened [i.e., that there was no conspiracy]. But without a full, exhaustive and transparent investigation carried out by immaculate figures, credibility and order cannot be restored soon. The Warren Commission didn't dissipate the doubts; however, without it, theories of skepticism and conspiracy would have prospered more than they did."

**March 25**, Colombian radio, former President Alfonso López Michelsen: Aburto "might have been deranged. . . . [There] is no evidence of any conspiracy."

**March 25**, *Jornal do Comercio* of Brazil, paraphrasing statement by Peter Hakim, head of the Inter-American Dialogue: "Peter Hakim . . . affirmed yesterday that the death of Colosio will have serious effects, if, for example, the involvement of anti-reform PRI factions or of the Armed Forces is demonstrated."

**March 26**, communiqué issued by the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN): "The hard-line and militarist option within the federal government planned and carried out this provocation to annul any peaceful intent to democratize national political life."

**March 28**, Associated Press, quoting statement of Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, president of the opposition PRD party in Mexico: "We think that behind the attack, an oligarchical group opposed to the democratic process was the one which armed the hand of the murderer."

**March 29**, F. Bartolomé in his column "Templo Mayor" in the daily *Reforma* of Mexico, citing remarks of the head of the Latin America division of the U.S. National Security Council, Richard Feinberg, formerly head of Inter-American Dialogue: "In an extreme example of this kind of thinking, there is Richard Feinberg . . . who has requested reports from diverse channels on the political evaluation of Mexico. . . . He is worried about the possibility that a leading PRI member of the old guard might reach Los Pinos [the Mexican White House]."

**March 29**, Peruvian Channel 5 interview with dissident member of the PRI, Ramiro de La Rosa, member of "Convergence 2000," which receives financing from the Project Democracy apparatus in the United States: "I don't rule out that Luis Donaldo Colosio may have been a victim of a conspiracy directed from the highest levels of power."