

## Dateline Mexico by Carlos Méndez

### Wall Street Journal promotes PAN

*The New York bankers campaign for Carlos Castillo Peraza, a self-styled "bad Catholic" and friend of Fidel Castro.*

**T**he Sept. 21 *Wall Street Journal* published an article praising to the skies Carlos Castillo Peraza, the chairman of Mexico's opposition National Action Party (PAN). According to the article, the PAN deserves support because it is "pro-business."

But, just days earlier, on Sept. 1, the same *Wall Street Journal* came out supporting the "El Barzón" movement, which is formally allied with the terrorist Zapatista Liberation Army (EZLN). And the *Wall Street Journal* has repeatedly editorialized in favor of Mexican ex-President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who destroyed Mexico's economy and fled the country for fear that he will be brought to justice for his corrupt acts. Salinas, who is now on the payroll of the *Wall Street Journal* publishers, belongs to the PRI party, from which Castillo Peraza's PAN has been trying to wrest the power it has held over Mexico for most of this century.

Castillo and the PAN are "on the rise politically," says the *Journal*, "largely because the December devaluation that plunged [Mexico] into a recession has caused so many to lose faith in the ruling party." (Of course, the *Journal* does not say that it was Salinas's policies that led to the devaluation.) "Investors also find it comforting that Mr. Castillo's party was identified with pro-business practices long before the ruling party got religion about free-market reforms a dozen years ago," it adds. "So, Mr. Castillo is getting lots of visitors these days."

"Mr. Castillo and the PAN have

also expanded their appeal by starting to move more toward the center of the political spectrum. The PAN and Mr. Castillo have long been considered by many Mexican voters to be too much in favor of business interests, too Catholic, and too cozy with the ruling party," says the *Journal*. Not to worry: "Mr. Castillo softened his pro-business image by visiting Fidel Castro in Havana this summer," it says.

Further, Castillo "now describes himself as a 'bad Catholic.'" Just in case there are still doubts about Castillo's loyalty to the international oligarchy organized around the British Crown, the *Journal* notes that this political philosophy major from Switzerland's University of Fribourg — where the ghost of Nazi philosopher Martin Heidegger still lurks — sprinkles the PAN's newsletters "with sayings from the likes of Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau."

In keeping with the outlook of the latter two, who view man as a beast, and proving that he is indeed "a bad Catholic," Castillo Peraza is an enthusiastic backer of the idea of setting up a Mexican branch of the Club of Rome, an organization formed for the purpose of drastically cutting the world's population. This runs counter to the views of most PAN members, but Castillo's first loyalty is not necessarily to the party base.

As for the Nazi Heidegger, Castillo Peraza was cited by the August 1993 issue of the magazine *Nexos* as saying that in "Mexico, I only found one teacher who shone explaining Heidegger: Carlos Pereira."

On Aug. 22, at the conclusion of an international seminar on drug trafficking of the Latin American Group of Observers (GOL), in Mexico City, Castillo — along with co-thinkers like former Venezuelan presidential candidate Oswaldo Alvarez Pan, and the chairman of the Simón Bolívar Foundation of Colombia, Guillermo de León Escobar — said that it was necessary to "revise" the idea of national sovereignty, for a "multinational force" to fight drugs.

Despite this pretext for abandoning what he terms Ibero-America's "traditional concept" of national sovereignty, Castillo's and the PAN's commitment to the war on drugs is dubious. Recently, several PAN congressmen have proposed legalizing casinos, which, as everyone knows, are ideal money laundries. For its part, the GOL made its debut in 1990, when it sent a delegation to Panama to support the invasion of that country ordered by George Bush. One of GOL's better known members is novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, a known advocate of drug legalization.

In fact, among the ranks of the GOL predominate members of the Mont Pelerin Society, who reject any attempts to halt the drug traffic on the grounds that they interfere with "free trade." They were also closely linked to the "Project Democracy" secret government apparatus that ran Bush and Ollie North's drugs-for-arms Iran-Contra operations.

Not surprisingly, in 1992, a number of leading members left the PAN, alleging that it had become "a pro-Salinas, liberal, and dogmatic" party, infiltrated "by an organ of the U.S. establishment." Given the backing for its employée, Salinas, it is understandable that the *Wall Street Journal* would repay Castillo Peraza by singing his praises.