

Dateline Mexico by Carlos Méndez

British plot takes a hit

Bishop Samuel Ruiz is left without his "bullet-proof vest," Camacho is out, and EZLN-PRD loses election.

In October, the British plot against Mexico took several hits that could mean the beginning of the end of the separatist destabilization in Chiapas.

First, Bishop Samuel Ruiz did not receive the Nobel Peace Prize, which he had said would serve as his "bullet-proof vest" against those trying to oust him. Without his "vest," Don Samuel can no longer easily protect the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), nor will he easily be able to move ahead with schismatic plans for an "indigenous autochthonous church."

If one notes that on Oct. 4, Msgr. Raúl Vera took office as the coadjutor bishop of Ruiz's diocese in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, with rights to succession, one might conclude that Don Samuel's days of subversion are numbered.

Second, Manuel Camacho, the former peace commissioner in Chiapas and leader of the pro-Zapatista faction in the ruling PRI party, has been forced out after a long political battle.

Camacho, former ecology and foreign minister, and former regent of Mexico City, is a one-worldist free-trader, linked to world-class speculator George Soros through business deals in Mexico City, who believed that he should have been the successor to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In a press conference on Oct. 5, President Ernesto Zedillo did with Camacho what he had earlier recommended to Luis Donaldo Colosio, the Presidential candidate of the PRI, shortly before the latter was assassinated in March 1993: namely, to hold Camacho responsible for his destabi-

lizing activities, since Camacho was then using his post as Chiapas peace commissioner to block Colosio's Presidential campaign.

Zedillo said of his recommendation to Colosio: "I held then, and I hold now," that it was a serious problem "that Dr. Camacho was seeking the Presidency," and that Camacho "was campaigning, without paying the costs or [taking] the risks of a political campaign, and that is what I said in that letter and in many discussions with Luis Donaldo Colosio."

Perhaps the straw that broke the camel's back was the insolence with which Camacho declared on Sept. 16 that there were two pre-candidates in November 1994 who "had the support of the majority of the country. . . . One of these was Dr. [Pedro] Aspe, and the other, yours truly." In other words, it was he, and not Zedillo, who should have been President.

On Oct. 7, Government Minister Emilio Chuayffet attacked those who "continue to parade as democrats, but who hide their ambition in the shadows." He warned that "those who artificially cause problems [in order] to be able to emerge as conciliators are not going to be called martyrs. . . . Those who the shoe fits, always perturbed and hyperactive, will soon give us yet another of their mistaken and confused answers." Immediately, Camacho put on the shoe, and challenged Chuayffet to a debate.

Chuayffet answered, "Calm down, sir. There are many years of obsession . . . many years in believing in a supposed manifest destiny that would carry you to the Presidency of the Republic." He added, "With the

simple authority of a reader, I again remind you that hyperactivity is no good; a man who is always preparing for the Presidency, as you said, cannot afford the luxury of signing letters with spelling errors" (he went on to point out those errors).

A few days later, Camacho resigned from the PRI.

Getting into the high posts he held through court intrigues, Camacho lacked a popular base of support. Today, he is left alone with his own ego, since no opposition party would be so foolish as to deliver him their machinery. Without the political, logistical, and financial resources of the government apparatus, Camacho's ability to destabilize are markedly reduced, and he will be forced to reveal the ties which until now he has kept behind the scenes.

Regarding Ruiz, the EZLN and its allies in the radical wing of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which didn't want elections in Chiapas and had "forecast" a bloodbath there—these forces suffered a devastating political defeat in the Oct. 15 state elections. Zapatista spokesman "Marcos" called for abstention and Don Samuel had twice warned that elections would bring bloodshed. Not only did they turn out peacefully, but the PRI won the majority of townships, and the opposition National Action Party (PAN) won the state capital, Tuxtla Gutiérrez.

The PRD radicals, including Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, are hysterical, and national PRD President Porfirio Muñoz Ledo accused "Marcos" of sabotaging the elections. "Marcos" answered that Muñoz Ledo forgets "that the EZLN did not take up arms to put the PRD in power." He added, "I continue to believe that the PAN is the only real alternative in the country." The PAN has thus far made no comment.