

Clinton's enemies plot U.S.-Mexico showdown

by Valerie Rush

On Feb. 28, President Clinton granted full certification to the Mexican government of Ernesto Zedillo, in recognition of and support for that government's efforts against the drug cartels, which have made major inroads into the political and economic life of Mexico.

Pro-British forces and their dupes inside the U.S. Congress immediately responded by attempting to organize a first-ever override of the President's certification. On March 13, the House of Representatives voted 251-175 to overturn Mexico's certification in 90 days, if President Clinton cannot come up with convincing new evidence to warrant certification. That vote, however, falls short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a Presidential veto, which Clinton has threatened to use, if necessary, in Mexico's defense. It is also reported that some decertification advocates in the Senate are yielding to White House pressure, and seeking a compromise with the President.

The argument of the decertification lobby is that narco-corruption has reached into the top echelons of Mexico's government, and that collaboration is therefore impossible. Mexico must be "taught a lesson" by "provoking a crisis" there, including shattering the ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI), they say.

Ironically, many of these same legislators either applauded, or looked the other way, when the George Bush administration worked hand-in-glove with South America's most powerful drug cartels, to finance and arm the Nicaraguan Contras, while setting up a pipeline for tons of cheap cocaine to flood America's neighborhoods. They also had only lavish praise for Bush's Mexican partner-in-crime, ex-President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, whose family is now facing criminal charges for involvement in the drug trade.

The strategic stakes

But there is something even bigger than the evident hypocrisy, something much more sinister, behind the Clinton-Congress showdown over Mexico. Using unusually strong language, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns hinted at the matter on March 5: "We're involved in a life-or-death battle for the security of both Mexico and the United States."

The "story behind the story," is that the ongoing Congressional brawl over Mexico is merely one piece of an activated British conspiracy to set Mexico and the United States against

each other, topple the Mexican government and unleash civil war in that country, while strategically crippling the Clinton administration in the United States—all as part of their global goal of destroying the sovereign nation-state. In an upcoming issue of *EIR*, we will present full documentation of this policy, including the fact that it is directly modelled on the British strategy in the early 1860s to destroy both the United States and Mexico.

Operation Quagmire

The congressional decertification of Mexico, were it to occur, would not only destroy U.S.-Mexican relations on the very eve of President Clinton's first state visit to that country in mid-April, but would dramatically accelerate the destabilization of Mexico already under way from narco-terrorist elements and from the dirty political networks of former President Salinas. With critical mid-term elections coming up in Mexico within a few months, such a move could even topple the Zedillo government, if the President is perceived as weak in the face of unacceptable pressure coming from Washington.

Under conditions of the social chaos that would ensue, forces associated with the British-spawned Zapatista insurgency in Chiapas would have a field day, as would their allies in the drug cartels. The crisis would quickly spill over the border into the United States, and current calls by extremists in the United States for militarizing and shutting down that border, would be given new strength. In short, the U.S. would quickly be facing a quagmire of unsuspected proportions right next door.

This is the clear intent of those pulling the strings on the decertification lobby in the U.S. Congress. Take the case of Jorge Castañeda, who is reportedly influential among some of the senators who say that the United States should "create a crisis down there" in Mexico. Castañeda, a top adviser to Fidel Castro's narco-terrorist São Paulo Forum, which includes in its ranks the Zapatista National Liberation Front, published a prominent article in the July/August 1996 issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, the mouthpiece of the anglophile New York Council on Foreign Relations. Castañeda argued that the United States should let Mexico collapse: "Waiting out the next debacle from the sidelines seems a wiser course than again saving the PRI and its friends in exchange for cautious reforms. Mexico needs new leadership . . . and it will not flower as long as the old cliques remain in place."

In May 1996, Castañeda had met in Dublin, Ireland with exiled Bush crony Carlos Salinas, and with the George Soros-allied PRI dissident Manuel Camacho, to coordinate precisely such a strategy. Since then, the U.S. media have been repeatedly calling for "dumping the PRI." Not content with "waiting out the next debacle" in Mexico, the British and their U.S. and Mexican agents intend to use decertification to trigger that crisis, now.