

Prince Philip Marches at The Head of Mexico's Zapatistas

by Rubén Cota Meza

On March 23, Mexico's Chamber of Deputies voted 220-210, with seven abstentions, to allow hooded representatives of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) to use the Congressional podium to argue on behalf of passing the Indigenous Rights Bill, sent to Congress by President Vicente Fox on Dec. 5, 2000. The plenum of the Senate, the upper house of the Mexican Congress, voted against an EZLN appearance in that chamber, by 52-47, with no abstentions.

The Indigenous Rights Bill would establish "indigenous peoples" as a legal entity, precisely as proposed by Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization. These territorial demarcations, thus defined, would obtain territorial autonomy and legal self-determination for self-rule, in accordance with the "habits and customs" of each people, and would include the right to fully enjoy the natural resources included in said territory.

On March 28, from the "highest tribune of the nation," a group of the so-called "commanders" of the irregular army which formally declared war on the Mexican government and Army on Jan. 1, 1994, and which has never retracted that declaration, addressed several Congressional commissions. The infamous "Subcommander Marcos" chose not to appear, saving his appearance for a future moment of even greater submission by Mexico's national institutions. Nonetheless, this event was in fact the prelude to the law's passage, which is expected to occur during the current session which ends on April 30. Speaking in Washington, D.C. on April 4, Fox's Government Secretary Santiago Creel announced that "the law will pass in the next few weeks."

The appearance of the Zapatista "commanders" in the Chamber of Deputies concluded a heated political battle which began on Dec. 1, 2000, when President Fox—inaugurated on that date as the constitutional President of Mexico—announced that "in a few days," he would send the bill to the Congress. The next day, EZLN leader "Subcommander Marcos" announced, from his hideout in the mountains of the southern state of Chiapas, that he would march in a caravan to Mexico City, to lobby for that same bill.

Up to that time, this irregular warfare movement which aims to change the Mexican Constitution, had been confined to the mountains and jungles of Chiapas, along the border with Guatemala. On Jan. 1, 1994, in its initial declaration of war, the EZLN had announced, "We shall march [presumably

armed—ed.] to the capital of the Republic." Seven years later, without firing a single shot and with the involvement of President Fox, the EZLN "commanders" triumphantly entered the main plaza of Mexico's capital city, surrounded by more than 100,000 followers. All of this, despite the opposition of the party which put Fox in the Presidency, the National Action Party (PAN).

Subjugating the Institutions

As of last Dec. 2, "Marcos" imposed three conditions on the Fox Administration for initiating a dialogue that would supposedly lead to "peace": 1) Withdraw the seven Mexican Army outposts from Chiapas, precisely the military enclosure that kept the EZLN confined to the Chiapas mountains. These outposts have been dutifully withdrawn by the government. "What we want to demonstrate by this," said "Marcos," is that Fox is, in effect, the commander of the Army. That is, "Marcos" sought—and achieved—the submission of the Armed Forces. 2) Release the 108 Zapatistas jailed for various crimes, including assassination, rape, and drug-trafficking. The majority have been released. This time, the submission of the Judiciary. And 3) Approve the Bill of Indigenous Rights—that is, the submission of the Legislature.

Between "Marcos" and Fox, the entire opposition has been crushed. With the resources of the state and through a vast publicity campaign, they blackmailed and silenced any opposition to permitting the EZLN—which has refused to retract its declaration of war against the Mexican state—to carry out its march to the capital. Also silenced were those who opposed a dialogue with hooded strangers, and those who opposed handing the Congressional podium over to the EZLN. They had rubbed in their faces, the threat that they would be responsible for the unleashing of war, were the dialogue to be stopped.

The activities of the Zapatistas in the past few weeks have been the most publicized events in the political history of the country. For the first time in the history of national television networks Televisa and TV Azteca, their respective presidents, Emilio Azcárraga Jean and Ricardo Salinas Pliego, appeared together in public to sponsor a rock "Concert for Peace," in the country's largest-capacity stadium, which was simultaneously broadcast by both networks.

In the face of this propaganda avalanche, "Marcos" ac-



An EZLN march to
Mexico City, March 1.

cused President Fox of seeking to put himself at the head of the march and presenting himself as in favor of peace, when this is not so, intoned the hooded Zapatista.

The EZLN baptized its caravan the "March of the Colored People of the Earth," which was launched Feb. 24 and, over the next two weeks, crossed 12 southern and central states of the country. While the march was going on, the Congress debated whether it should allow an armed group which refused to disavow its declaration of war against the Mexican Army and government, to enter the capital city. On March 5, the EZLN launched another threat from Michoacán, where the "commanders" were attending the Third National Indigenist Congress: "We will provoke a peaceful Indian uprising nationwide," it said. Once again, the blackmail worked, and the march entered Mexico City on March 11.

'White Overalls' and 'Terrorist Tourism'

From the moment that "Subcommander Marcos" announced the march on the National Congress, the international shock troops that would take charge of security for the march, and the key "personalities" affording it political protection, began to mobilize.

The so-called Italian "White Overalls," responsible for "Subcommander Marcos'" security, entered the country with the consent of the Mexican government, on the pretext that this constituted a new form of tourism—"terrorist tourism" was how the Fox government's Commissioner for Immigra-

tion Affairs characterized it.

Two days before the Zapatista march was to enter Mexico City's "Zócalo," the country's most important public plaza, all of the hotel rooms with balconies looking out on the plaza where the international delegations were to appear, had already been reserved. Present were Danielle Mitterrand, widow of France's former President, François Mitterrand, and mother of Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, accused of weapons trafficking; French eco-terrorist José Bové, financed by the Anglo-French magnate Teddy Goldsmith, and also leader of the pro-terrorist, global peasant organization, Vía Campesina, of which "Subcommander Marcos" is the Mexican representative; the writer Manuel Vázquez Montalbán of Catalonia, Spain; Portuguese Nobel Prize winner in literature José Saramago; Hebe de Bonafini, the pro-terrorist leader of Argentina's Mothers of Plaza de Mayo who, on the verge of tears, sniffled that "he's [Marcos] my fifth son"; while "Marcos" entertained more than 100,000 people gathered there.

There were also delegations from several organizations affiliated with the São Paulo Forum, from Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Central America, and elsewhere.

However, the most important of the international delegations, that of England's Prince Philip, wasn't at the Zócalo, but rather at the Convent of the Clarisa Sisters of Mexico, at a meeting of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, run by Martin Palmer, the religious guru of Queen Elizabeth II's

Prince Consort. According to the March 25 edition of *El Universal*, Palmer was in Mexico to finalize an agreement between Mexico's Interreligious Council (CIM) and the Fox government "to stop the eco-catastrophe," and to preside over a CIM meeting.

At the closed-door meeting, among others, were Jonathan Rose, CIM executive president; Manuel Gómez Granados, director of the Mexican Institute for Christian Social Doctrine; and Rodolfo Ogarrio, director of FUNDEA, a private organization for environmental education run by Manuel Arango, a member of the 1001 Club, which in turn is run by Prince Philip. Palmer told *El Universal* that the agreement between Mexico's government and religions "has been a fundamental step." This "augurs an important change" in the country in which "religions will be an active agent" in the fight for the conservation of the so-called national ecosystem.

The religions participating in these environmentalist efforts, Palmer said, have moved, little by little, from a dogmatic perspective to "a spiritual and ethnic axis" which allows for these groups' involvement. Palmer also runs the World Interreligious Council, of which Bishop Samuel Ruiz is a founding member. Ruiz, the Bishop Emeritus of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, is the intellectual-religious godfather of the armed movement which seeks territorial autonomy and political self-determination, to control the region's natural resources (or to hand them over to the oligarchy's cartels, as the case may be).

Ruiz Proclaims Continental 'Indigenous Resurgence'

During a tour of Italy at the end of March, Samuel Ruiz told the newspaper *Il Nuovo* that "America is awakening. A wave of extraordinary energy is moving over the whole continent, pushing the indigenous peoples to lift up their heads. On the whole continent, from Mexico to southern Chile, from Alaska to the Patagonia, in recent months we've seen the signs of a real 'indigenous resurgence.' Oppressed since the time of the Conquest, which some call 'the Discovery of America,' people are becoming conscious that they are subjects of their own history: from the Mapuche Indians in southern Chile, who even demand certain governmental autonomy, to the Indians of Ecuador, and even Guatemala and Mexico," who seek to "create a true multi-ethnic democracy, and respect for communitarian laws and traditional pre-Hispanic customs," he said.

Ruiz added, "The conflict is between the indigenous communitarian spirit, which wants its lands back to fulfill itself, and the individualistic capitalism of the exploiters, which expropriates the land." While "Commander" Samuel said that "the consequences of this general uprising of the indigenous people can not be predicted," Palmer boasted that a good portion of the Australian natural reserves, the administration of which has been given to the aborigines, are actually run by Benedictine monks.

Stop the Narco-Terrorist Coup d'État in Mexico!

The following are excerpts from a statement by Marivilia Carrasco, president of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Mexico, issued on March 27. A subhead has been added.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army's (EZLN) victory in being granted use of the country's most important political tribunal, represents a point of inflection in favor of the oligarchic forces headquartered in London and Wall Street, who created and are deploying the EZLN to destroy Mexico as a nation. The decision to allow "Subcommander Marcos" to address the federal Chamber of Deputies, was preceded by the submission of the Judiciary and of the Armed Forces, in beginning to fulfill the three conditionalities demanded by the EZLN: elimination of military posts in Chiapas, release of terrorist prisoners, and acceptance of indigenous autonomy. It comes as no surprise that this spectacle occurs at a moment in which the disintegration of the international financial system is accelerating, afflicted by a systemic and global crisis which, as has been repeatedly forecast by U.S. economist and statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, has the power to erase entire nations from the map.

Under these conditions of financial collapse, the Anglo-American oligarchy is intensifying its offensive to seize the economic assets and strategic energy resources of the planet, at the cost of the indiscriminate genocide of populations, and the territorial splintering of nations. The "multiplication" of borders upon which "Marcos" and his bosses insist, is identical to that appearing in the maps that hang on the walls of former British Minister of Overseas Development (i.e., Colonial Minister) Lynda Chalker, which delineate the new borders of the micro-states into which the Anglo-American empire hopes to reduce the nations of Africa. The objective is to exterminate entire sectors of the black population by means of inter-tribal warfare, starvation, and AIDS, while "world government" takes control of energy resources, food, and strategic minerals. The campaigns for indigenous autonomy are an important element in this strategy, promoted from the centers of world financial power and embraced not only by "Zapatismo," but also by the Vicente Fox government itself.

To improve the lives of not only Mexican Indians, but of all the citizens of the nation, it is not necessary for the country to empower the EZLN. The hundreds of thousands of unemployed, the thousands of companies that have shut down, the return of thousands, soon to be hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who have been laid off in the United States because