

# Church radicals organize 'Chicano violence'

by Tim Rush

In the wake of the mid-May Miami riots, the word spread fast across the country, not without a little media prompting: will the Chicano *barrios* of the Southwest be the next to go up in flames?

Yes, said a group of Chicano radicals meeting in San Diego May 25. It was like the late 1960s again. The list of San Diego speakers was headed by Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, emerging from a decade of relative obscurity—the Corky Gonzales who authored the "Aztlán Manifesto" in 1968, one of the triumvirate of media-built Chicano leaders, along with José Angel Gutierrez of La Raza Unida and Reyes Tijerina of the New Mexico "Courthouse Raid."

A month later, the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) president Rubén Bonilla was grilled by the press on the same topic at his national convention. His answer was no.

And in between, Attorney General Civiletti was asking the Justice Department's Hispanic Advisory Committee to "keep him informed of any possible future Miami incidents."

The possibility of violence on the U.S.-Mexican border is no sudden awakening. It represents the maturation of fifteen years of "special operations" implanted from outside. Emerging in the lead, both in terms of support operations and ideological underpinnings, is the "liberationist wing" of the Catholic Church.

"The Chicanos must not become another minority," proclaims the draft document now circulating for the mammoth "Theology of the Americas" conclave in Detroit at the end of this month. The conference will bring together all the big names of "left" Jesuit subversion in Latin America with their respective counterparts in the U.S. With the slogan, "no minority," the liberationists state that they mean the eradication of any "Mexican-American" or "Hispanic-American" identity tied to the process by which other minorities sought assimilation

into the ideas of "America." Instead, Chicanos must turn to "Aztlán"—the invented Chicano "homeland"—and "autonomy of homogeneous political units."

This represents a full-scale relaunching of a cult-ridden separatist identity, capable of being directed into riots and terrorism and enmeshed in border drug- and arms-running networks.

Though the development of "Chicano Power" has not been accorded headlines since its initial flowering in the 1960s, it has been minutely profiled by top thinktank strategists throughout the last decade and built into policy options studied at the highest levels of government.

The basic context of these scenarios: Chicano militancy in an environment of crackdowns against "illegal aliens" and the gradual sealing of the U.S.-Mexico border. The policy options: a weapon for destabilization of Mexico, and only slightly less powerful weapon for terrorist disruption of the U.S.

The most famous of these studies is the 1975 report of immigration expert Arthur Corwin, "America's Illegal Alien Dilemma." After conducting confidential seminars at the State Department and the U.S. embassy in Mexico during 1974 and 1975 on what he termed "emerging Chicano Quebecs," Corwin submitted the written report on the topic—complete with maps showing a Southwest balkanized between Indian and Chicano reservations—to the Domestic Council on Illegal Aliens, chaired by then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It is reported that Labor Secretary Ray Marshall circulated the study again at the beginning of the Carter administration.

More recent policy planning has tied border unrest into scenarios for the "Iranization" of Mexico. As Richard Fagen, a top Council on Foreign Relations analyst, has written, "Should serious political problems and massive social unrest be added to Mexico's deep-seated developmental difficulties, new issues arise: under those

circumstances, not only would the Mexican resident families and friends of persons living in the U.S. . . . be involved—and possibly injured and killed—but the border itself would assume a strategic importance that it has not had for more than a century.”

As we document below, the development profiled as the principal trigger for widespread unrest in the borderlands and Mexico itself—a crackdown on undocumented Mexican workers in the U.S.—is now fast becoming reality. Attorney General Civiletti, a member of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugees, is in the thick of this hardline push.

As this happens, a vast apparatus of “migrant rights defense” groups on both sides of the border is ready to go into action. One of the leaders of the May 25 San Diego gathering, Hernán Baca, heads just such a defense committee. On the Mexican side, over 80 organizations, reaching as far as the giant labor umbrella group, the Labor Congress, joined forces in April to promulgate a “Migrants Rights Charter.”

At the same time, the “police brutality” issue is as hot in the Hispanic communities as in the black communities, and is being made still hotter by Department of Justice action itself.

Civiletti asks his Hispanic Advisory Board to “inform” him if any Chicano *barrios* are about to explode. Maybe Mexican-Americans should ask *him* for the advance warning?

## Tightening up on immigration

“You will notice that Attorney General Civiletti, speaking to the national LULACs [League of United Latin American Citizens], edged up to two or three very, very significant points that would have to be considered [for an effective crackdown on illegal immigration], including the possibility of a universal work card. A lot of things like that are now being discussed openly. Some of them, over the past year and a half, have been very sensitive to the Hispanic-American community, or to employers, or to the humanitarian groups. To have all these things aired out now to the detail that they are is extremely useful from a public policy standpoint within the United States. . . .”

This is Richard Rubottom speaking, chief border policy adviser to Gov. Bill Clements of Texas. This was the “timely context,” Rubottom told a reporter this

week, in which Clements had presented a comprehensive program to control undocumented labor from Mexico to a June 26-27 meeting of U.S. and Mexican border state governors.

There was every reason for Rubottom’s stress on how “sensitive” some of these taboo topics are. Work cards, no matter what their pretext, can turn into a means of worker regimentation as they did in Nazi Germany—especially under the kind of profound economic dislocation now hitting the U.S. Other proposals re-emerging, after rejection in a first round of public discussion at the time of Carter’s ill-fated August 1977 anti-illegal immigration package, are sanctions against employers who hire undocumented workers; strengthened border patrol; and elimination of any temporary work permits, especially in the agricultural area.

The highlights of the new barrage of anti-immigration agitation:

- The decision by the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy to “go public” with its hardline, heretofore private, year-and-a-half deliberations.
- The amendment Kentucky Sen. Walter Huddleston put through the Senate at the end of June specifying that total legal immigration to the U.S. for the fourth quarter of 1980 cannot pass 100,000—a reduction of at least 30 percent in currently mandated levels and the first time ever that a house of Congress has acted to set a ceiling in this manner.
- The 15 percent hike in border patrol personnel voted up by the House just before the July 4 recess, along with a \$22 million supplemental appropriation to the INS.

### Approaches to the problem

Two ways of viewing the issue of illegal immigration are at issue here.

One, presented by Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche to the same LULAC convention where Civiletti spoke, seeks to end the abuses and exploitation of foreign workers, particularly Mexicans, that are possible precisely because they are “illegal.” The focus of this approach is how to restart the U.S. economy as a whole, and within this climate of expanding demand for skilled labor in the U.S., build a legal framework for incorporating foreign laborers heretofore drawn in without provisions for giving them legal status.

The other approach is to view the current U.S. depression as a heaven-sent opportunity to shut down the entry of foreign labor under any arrangement; and the entire controversy over “illegal aliens” as a way to introduce previously impossible regimentation of the work force as a whole. Top planners in this group repeatedly told *EIR* that the ugly incidents which erupted around resettlement of Cuban refugees two months