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## Energy Debate

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# Nuclear power advocates spurred by proposal for expanded investment

by Timothy Rush

The small antinuclear forces in Mexico have tried to let Mexico's oil wealth do their work for them. While targeting some youth and leftists for an antinuclear movement, the "greenie" strategists have nurtured the line among those less prone to environmentalist scare stories that "Mexico can afford to wait on nuclear because it has so much oil."

Lyndon LaRouche's formulation during his visit that Mexico "must trade a 20th-century resource—oil—for 21st-century technologies" caught the imagination of the substantial pronuclear sentiment waiting to begin a counteroffensive. The Mexican daily *Novedades* editorialized March 16 that "even the countries with oil, like ours, must necessarily move toward new sources of energy. In the case of nuclear energy, there are, in addition, immense possibilities for applications outside the energy

area, such as in food and in medicine.

"In order to move on to the technology that nuclear energy permits us to use," continued the editorial, "we must carry out a great national effort to prepare technicians and professionals in this area. In the next few years the plant at Laguna Verde, Veracruz, and the reactor center at Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, will come on stream. To run these important installations and those which follow them, we will need more than 50,000 nuclear technicians. This requires a rapid and efficient training program for these people. If we don't undertake such a program immediately, we run the risk of losing the enviable advantage which we have been able to gain in the energy field, thanks to the richness of our subsoil in hydrocarbons and uranium." Mexico's twin nuclear plants at Laguna Verde (650 MWe each) are now due to begin

## Union leader: nuclear shutdown means murder

*Excerpted below is an exchange on the pages of Uno más Uno in mid-March between Mauricio Schoijet, an Argentine sympathizer with the Socialist International who is currently operating an antinuclear crusade out of Mexico, and Nuclear Workers Union (SUTIN) spokesman Arturo Ponce.*

**Schoijet:** The workers are the first victims of radioactive contamination. . . . Worker toleration of the dangers of radiation is encouraged by collaborationist labor leaders. . . .

A worker at the Seabrook plant suggested that workers are unable to select the projects they would like to work on and gave as an example the German workers who built the cremation ovens during the Hitler period. . . . What do workers expect from the system which gives them jobs, although they are dangerous and unhealthy? What do they think of their

political influence in terms of their ability to promote the kinds of projects they want to work on, which is identical with that of the German workers during the Hitler period when the German working class had no rights at all?

**Ponce:** In the ecstasy of his anti-nuclear delirium, Schoijet, after accusing nuclear energy workers of being class collaborators, implies that if Hitler-type cremation ovens were being built, the nuclear workers would build them. . . .

Schoijet cites [U.S. social-democratic labor leader] William Winpisinger, "Historically, industry replaces labor with energy, thereby reducing the number of workers needed for production." This means that ideal society would be one in which only human energy is used. That's a really romantic idea. But we are 4.5 billion people living on this planet. If we want primitive means of production, wouldn't many people be in excess? . . . Such a pre-industrial society (feudal, primitive, patriarchal, or what?) May seem attractive to some people, but it won't provide for the population!

operation in 1983; the test reactor and training center at Pátzcuaro, a \$30 million facility, is just at the groundbreaking stage.

The reference to the Pátzcuaro facility was appropriate because in the preceding days a new group, calling itself the "Ecological Defense Committee of Michoacán," had suddenly made a bid for national prominence with threats to stop the facility.

The environmental-leftist daily *Uno más Uno*, which gave the committee every favorable mention it could, had to admit that few responded to the call. A glance at the lead speakers in a protest meeting March 13, however, confirmed that an international coordinated intensification of environmental activity was involved.

The most significant name on the speaker's roster was Dr. Adip Sabag, director of the Mexican Public Opinion Institute (IMOP), a subsidiary of the newly constituted Mexican Social Democratic Party, seeking official affiliation with Willy Brandt's environmentalist, proterrorist Socialist International.

Speaking with Sabag was José Arias, head of an offshoot of the United Nations environmentalist apparatus called the "Association of Appropriate Technologies," and Jean Roberts, a collaborator of counterculture brainwasher and guru, Ivan Illich.

Some government officials are playing along. Public Works and Housing Minister Pedro Ramírez Vázquez has put environmentalists on the ministry's payroll and promoted solar energy as Mexico's energy future. Jorge Castañeda's foreign ministry is cosponsoring a late March "new and renewable energy" forum with the U.N.'s Economic Commission on Latin America. Its focus will be the technologies of the 14th-century—windmills, sailing ships, beasts of burden, and swamp gas.

Yet the tide is unquestionably running against these greenie efforts in Mexico. The government has announced that bids will be taken this summer for the next 2,000 to 3,000 MWe of nuclear power construction. The new official Energy Plan calls for 20 new plants by the year 2000. And at the Third Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference in Acapulco in February, government spokesmen sent a strong message to the Reagan administration that one of the actions that could most quickly undo the damage of the Carter years would be to reverse Carter's restrictions on nuclear exports (see *EIR*, March 17).

The aggressiveness of the nuclear advocates, spurred and reinforced by the LaRouche statements, was most audible in the rejoinder of Nuclear Workers Union spokesman Arturo Ponce to diatribes by countercultural columnist Mauricio Schoijet (see box). To Schoijet's likening of the pronuclear labor unions to the workers who built Hitler's gas ovens, Ponce simply asked Schoijet to put a figure on how many millions will die under his own regime of primitive technologies.

## Hijacking could clinch to Pakistan—and undo

by Paul Zykofsky, New Delhi correspondent

The Pakistani air hijacking drama that ended in Syria last week has set the stage for a chorus of demands that U.S. arms be rushed to Gen. Zia Ul-Haq's military dictatorship in Pakistan to "meet the Soviet threat." Pakistani government charges that the Soviet Union and Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan operated in collusion with the hijackers were repeated two days ago by the U.S. State Department.

But, despite the overtly anti-Zia nature of the hijacking, the affair has aroused deep suspicions in neighboring India and elsewhere that Gen. Zia Ul-Haq may have run the hijacking himself as a pretext for gaining U.S. backing to embark on dangerous adventurism to maintain himself in power.

One Indian politico-military analyst did not hesitate to describe the entire incident as a "setup" carried out with the complicity of the Zia regime to brand the opposition as "terrorists." The opposition is the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), founded by executed former Prime Minister Zulifkar Ali Bhutto, and the nine parties the PPP recently united into a Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

The analyst reported that he had first received this impression when, on the second day of the hijacking, British Broadcasting Company had reported from Islamabad that Pakistan was blaming India for the incident. His view was reinforced, he noted, when the head of Pakistan International Airways, Gen. Rahim Khan, went out of his way to charge that the hijacking had been carried out with the full support of the PPP and the Bhutto family. The subsequent arrest of PPP leaders Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, the wife and daughter of the former prime minister executed by the Zia government, and of hundreds of opposition members, was taken as further evidence of the suspicious nature of the hijacking.

Some confirmation of these suspicions emerged over one week after the hijacking when a small item appeared in the Indian press to the effect that the head of the hijackers, "Algimir" (also called "Tippu"), was a former member of Pakistan's Secret Service Group (SSG). According to sources near the Pakistani border, the press