

Church radicals say Mexico next Poland

by Dolia E. Pettingell

In mid-June, 3,000 Guatemalan peasants crossed the Mexican-Guatemalan border seeking political asylum in Mexican territory. Claiming that the Guatemalan refugees were running away from political repression and torture, the Mexican left and radical press threatened that if the Mexican government refused to grant the Guatemalans political asylum, they would launch an international human rights campaign that would hurt Mexico's image.

Ignoring these threats, at the end of July the Mexican government sent all but 50 of the Guatemalans back to their country. Mexican Secretary of Defense Félix Galván explained Aug. 2 that the Mexican government had decided to send the Guatemalans back because they had been "manipulated" by a "Belgian priest" named Hugh Howard and a "social worker." By their urging the peasants to leave Guatemala because their "towns would be bombed by the Guatemalan army," General Galván explained that the "manipulators" intended to "create problems on both sides of the Guatemalan-Mexican border."

The Belgian priest and the social worker referred to by General Galván are part of the Jesuit/Socialist International plan to plug Mexico into the Central American violence scenario before the North-South meeting in Cancún, Mexico next October.

By denouncing the plot—and plotters—by name, the Mexican government has temporarily managed to defuse the plans to spread the Central American violence through massive inflows of refugees, including armed guerrillas. Developments over the past months, however, indicate that it will take more denunciations to actually dismantle these destabilization plans against Mexico. (Socialist International assets both inside Mexico and abroad have intensified their efforts to make the destabilization of Mexico coincide with the September Central America blowup scenario.)

Ramsey Clark's visit

A key indication of this commitment is the recent one-week trip to Mexico of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the man who takes credit for putting the Ayatollah Khomeini in power.

In the past, Clark has repeatedly "predicted" that the "repressive Mexican system" will be overthrown like in Iran by a blind insurrection of Jacobin hordes. Early last year, Clark took part in a New York City "roundtable" on political repression in Mexico sponsored by PEN International, a group of international writers which operates as a human rights front for terrorist activities around the world.

Although little was reported in the press as to whom Clark met with while in Mexico, it is known that he maintains close ties with Socialist International assets inside the Mexican government like Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, and the group of radical antigovernment "intellectuals" whom Clark sees as the would-be ayatollahs of Mexico.

Some of these "intellectuals," who also attended last year's PEN International roundtable, are Mexican writer Elena Poniatowska; cultist-novelists Octavio Paz and Carlos Fuentes (a "personal friend" of French President Mitterrand); and Mexican human rights advocate Mrs. Ibarra de Piedra, recently mooted as a presidential "unity" candidate of the country's left.

At last year's conference, both Clark and this Mexican group concluded that the Mexican system was worse than Nazi Germany, since at least in Germany crimes were publicly known and in Mexico they are not.

In an interview Aug. 7 with the Mexican proterrorist daily *Uno más Uno*, Clark urged the Mexican government to "intervene" in Central America before "things get worse." Clark insisted that Mexico is the only country that can stop the Reagan administration's "militarist" push in Central America.

The upsurge of violence Clark has been predicting for Mexico would be led in the field by the Jesuit Theology of Liberation priests who are currently running the Central American "revolutions" as well. An indication of what these forces intend to do appeared in recent statements by the ultraradical bishop of the Tehuantepec region of Mexico, Arturo Lona Reyes. In a challenge rarely seen in Mexico—where Church and state roles are constitutionally separated—Lona urged the Church to take on the role of leading the "Indians and poor people of Mexico" acknowledging that, as in Central America, "armed revolutions represent the last legitimate means [to] fight injustice." The Church, Lona explained, can make the Mexican political system "tremble like in Poland."

What is especially grave about Lona's remarks is that they were made *after* the Mexican interior ministry had issued a sharp warning against Church involvement in politics. In a lengthy political statement, the interior ministry reiterated in strong terms that the Constitution bans Church participation in politics, and to allow it to do otherwise would lead to a confrontation that no one desires.