

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Pol Pot-style experiment in Oaxaca

Eyewitness accounts tell of a reign of terror that is taking place in Juchitán.

Some of my readers will recall our report last spring on the surprise victory of the Mexican Communist Party-allied terrorist grouping, COCEI, in the Juchitán, Oaxaca, municipal elections. We pointed out then the danger of giving political power to the ultra-left. What has gone on there not only confirms the validity of our warning, but obliges us to predict that the experiment being carried out in Juchitán is a wedge for the genocidal policies of Cambodia's Pol Pot regime.

Recent visitors and other reliable sources state that Juchitán has suffered a radical change since the alleged electoral victory of the group, called the Worker, Peasant, and Student Coordinating Group of the Isthmus (COCEI).

Juchitán is located on the border of the strategic state of Chiapas, at the crossroads of major highways—the Panamerican running southeast to Guatemala and the Trans-Isthmus highway running across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the oil-refining center of Coatzacoalcos. The COCEI and its municipal president have set up such a reign of terror that the place is known as “the town without law.” People flee to the neighboring towns simply because they fear for their survival under COCEI policies. The small merchants who remain do so under threat that they will lose businesses built up over years if they try to flee the “new distribution of wealth,” the slogan

under which COCEI threatens to make indiscriminate expropriations from supposedly “rich” farmers and store-owners.

Schools are practically paralyzed; the technical school which played a major role is almost closed. The high school slated for construction will now be located elsewhere, since the COCEI rejects “bourgeois education.” Anything smelling of growth, development, or production orientations is rejected by the municipal president.

Prostitution and drug trafficking enjoy such freedom that they are carried out even inside the town hall, my direct informants tell me. It is not hard to believe rumors that arms smuggling goes hand in hand with the drug traffic.

The chief of COCEI created his own “people's militia,” separate from the usual state police, and recruited from his own base of thugs.

The direct terrorist side of the operation has moved ahead apace. Busloads of deployable zombies from the COCEI group have been repeatedly sent up to Mexico City by their controllers to serve as cannon fodder in violent takeovers of foreign embassies.

In the latest development, the municipal president, one Leopoldo de Gyves, is openly threatening sabotage of the new Trans-Isthmus container “land bridge” set to go into operation early 1982.

“In the face of this industrial project and imperialist penetration,

the solidarity of all the anti-imperialist organizations of Mexico is necessary,” he proclaimed in the pages of the pro-terrorist *Por Esto!* magazine on Oct. 29.

The reader is doubtless asking how it is possible that neither the state nor federal government has taken any action against this enclave.

EIR is in possession of document showing that a faction inside the ruling PRI party in the region, exploiting latitude opened by Mexico's political reform program, actually arranged the electoral irregularities and related operations which helped defeat their own party. I am not sure whether the then-President of the PRI, Gustavo Carrvajal, who lost his job partly as a result of the PRI defeat in Juchitán, knew what was being pulled off.

When the COCEI lost elections the first time last March, the Electoral Action arm of the local PRI apparatus granted the COCEI, formally affiliated with the Communist Party, a shot in new elections. In the second elections, the PRI inexplicably printed ballots with the same colors as the COCEI party, and did not send enough PRI ballots for the voting. Voter registration cards were well in excess of the number of qualified voters.

Most important, throughout the entire period, the local PRI failed to carry out any political education and mobilization drives of its own—particularly significant in a town which has a long history of political fractiousness, going back to the period of Benito Juárez.

It looks like cleaning up the COCEI also involves cleaning up those who protect it in the PRI and in contaminated government layers, up to the national level.