

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Jacobin upsurge sweeps the northwest

Sonora's Governor Ocaña is targeted by Mexico's "greenies," who are manipulating student and peasant unrest

Last month, I reported to you the extraordinary efforts being made by the government of Sonora to unleash an industrialization drive that would extend beyond that state to the entire Northwestern part of Mexico (see *EIR*, Nov. 24). That promising drive is now being threatened by a wave of Jacobin unrest led by leftist forces allied to the Jesuit radicals in the church who are also behind the turmoil in Central America.

Instability is now centered in Sinaloa, the state bordering Sonora to the south. At the beginning of December, an estimated multitude of 40,000 people, most of them radicalized students and peasants, demonstrated in the capital of Sinaloa, Culiacán, demanding the resignation of Governor Antonio Toledo Corro. Days before, a group of peasants reportedly manipulated by the Socialist Workers Party (PST) had invaded several plots of land outside of Culiacán, an action that led to a violent confrontation with local armed authorities. The PST is now claiming that several peasants were killed in the action, and the entire Jesuit-run radical press in the country is blaming the Governor and demanding his resignation. Both the Governor and Mexico's Interior Minister, Enrique Olivares Santana, have denied that anyone was killed.

The Socialist Workers Party is not the only troublemaker in Sinaloa. In the Culiacán-based state university, the Mexican Commu-

nist Party (PCM) and other leftist groups have been inciting students into a violent confrontation with the Toledo Corro government. Although a state-funded institution, the University of Sinaloa is widely known in Mexico as a virtual "state within a state," ruled by a despotic minority of radical teachers and students who "took it over" in the late 60s as part of the same Bertrand Russell counterculture movement that swept Europe and the United States at that time. Since then, it has functioned as the most prolific spawner of terrorist youth in the country. The most recent confrontation with the government came as a result of the Governor's attempt to regain control of that institution.

This combination of peasant and student unrest has created a highly volatile climate in the state, to the point that the left-wing media are already beginning to call Sinaloa "Mexico's Central America."

Nor is Sinaloa the only target. Allied radical forces are now doing their best to spread the Jacobin violence to neighboring Sonora, where Governor Samuel Ocaña has been targeted to get the "Toledo Corro treatment." In this drive, the left has been joined by anti-government forces among the local landed oligarchy, a bastion of Friedmanite "free enterprise" ideology.

This common "left-right" hatred for the Ocaña government is no coincidence. The Sonora government has distinguished itself for its determination to industrialize

that state—now Mexico's most productive agriculture producer. To accomplish this, in close collaboration with the López Portillo government, it has drawn up ambitious projects to industrially transform the agriculture, cattle, mining, and fishing raw materials produced in the area.

With this in mind, Sonora officials have extensively explored ways of bringing American technologies to their state. As I reported to you last month, the Ocaña government proved this point in its "Sonora '81" industrial fair, certainly one of the best technology exhibitions ever done by a state government in Mexico.

The "Sonora '81" fair earned Ocaña the particular wrath of the state's Friedmanite oligarchy. A number of Sonora sources report that these circles are actively spreading rumors that Governor Ocaña has gone "insane" in trying to implement an industrial "utopia" in Sonora.

Earlier this year, Ocaña and Toledo Corro had agreed to collaborate with the Federal government to continue the construction of the PHLINO, a huge irrigation project which would bring water from Sinaloa to the rich but arid land of Sonora. This project would enormously increase Mexico's food production capacity and is a must for the region's successful industrialization.

Although an old government plan, the PHLINO had run into political flak from among Sinaloa circles who argued against "giving away" their surplus water to their northern neighbor—an argument overridden by Toledo Corro. His ouster would seriously endanger the realization of that project.