

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### Glass houses

*The figures running the international campaign to "expose Mexican corruption" have more to hide than those they accuse.*

One would think the effects on Mexico of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, which has destroyed 350,000 jobs in the United States as well as laid waste to the Mexican economy, would concern the U.S. media. Not so: The name of the game is "corruption," and the media's fixation on the issue is a cover-up for the crimes being committed in the name of the IMF "adjustment program."

The *Christian Science Monitor* kicked off a new phase of the campaign in a Feb. 6 article entitled "Mexicans Begin to Question Motives of President's Anti-Graft Drive." Political scientist Lorenzo Meyer is quoted, "The President [Miguel de la Madrid] will not satisfy the public demand that [former President] López Portillo be brought to justice," and therefore de la Madrid's pledges to clean up corruption are "just a political ploy."

It is the motives of the accusers which deserve questioning. For starters: the López Portillo issue. A large measure of the "anti-corruption" publicity inside and outside the country is aimed at forcing de la Madrid to unleash a witchhunt against his predecessor, José López Portillo, and thereby tear apart the power and prestige of the office of the presidency. The pro-IMF forces are not at all certain they can keep de la Madrid behind them as the situation deteriorates; they are targeting the power of the presidency itself.

De la Madrid gave a sharp, if indirect, answer to these efforts to fab-

ricate charges against López Portillo in an unusual full-dress press conference with the foreign press Feb. 7. He stated that the law in Mexico "will not be subject to international or internal pressures."

But what is really at stake goes deeper. It is Mexico's commitment to modernization, and the strong bond between the government and labor essential for this modernization. The "anti-corruption" cabal doesn't care at all about corruption—they care about how to eliminate what they view as "too many people."

Our first case in point is Lorenzo Meyer, cited so prominently in the *Christian Science Monitor* article. Meyer is a veteran of U.S. media exposés of the terrible corruption in Mexico. *Wall Street Journal* features in April 1983 and again in January 1984 used Meyer to demand the "destruction" of a pet target, oilworkers' chief Joaquin Hernández Galicia.

Meyer is one of the leading lights of the Colegio de Mexico, whose long-time director is Victor Urquidi, the chief of the Mexican branch of the Club of Rome. "Limits to growth" is not merely what the Colegio "studies" but what it implements. It is the closest thing to a "genocide lobby" inside Mexico.

Case number two is *Contenido* magazine, a monthly hailed in the foreign press as a great fighter against corruption. *Contenido* is published by Miguel Alemán, Jr., corrupt son of the Miguel Alemán, the most corrupt president in Mexico's modern history.

When the elderly "Czar of Acapulco" died last year, the headlines ran "Ali Baba is Gone . . . but What About the 40 Thieves?" That was a reference to the crowd now clinging to the younger Alemán. Junior runs the Mexican TV empire called Televisa, and last year began a channel with special programming on the need to cut births and introduce euthanasia.

Case number three is George Grayson, professor of government at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Grayson's outraged cries about Mexican corruption have become a fixture on the pages of the *Washington Post* and more recently, the *Christian Science Monitor*. Grayson, a population-reduction fanatic, wrote a 1978 *Foreign Policy* magazine article advocating the complete sealing and militarization of the Mexico-U.S. border as a way to force Mexico to give up industry, nuclear energy, and any other means to support a growing population.

Case number four is Benjamin Weiner, head of a spook outfit in Connecticut called Probe International. Weiner, in a *New York Times* piece of Jan. 15, insisted that Mexico remained too corrupt to justify foreign investment. There have been "too many Shahs and too many López Portillos" in recent years, he lamented. But what this instigator of Mexico's disastrous 1982 devaluations really lamented was "the unrelenting 2-percent-plus growth in the population each year."

And case number five is Education Minister Jesús Reyes Heróles, cited by the "anti-corruptors" as a model corruption-fighter when he headed Pemex in the late 1960s. Reyes Heróles coordinates a battalion of bureaucrats behind the scenes, many centered in a Club of Rome nest in the Planning and Budget Ministry.