

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

PAN takes up the Moscow line

Mexico's fascist opposition party asks the U.S. ambassador to release drug lobby slanders against LaRouche.

An official spokesman for the pro-fascist National Action Party (PAN) appealed in an open letter to the U.S. embassy in Mexico published March 9 for "immediate action against Lyndon H. LaRouche's interference in Mexican affairs." The PAN has joined up with the U.S. drug lobby and the Soviet press to denounce the American leader.

LaRouche had charged in a Jan. 21 television broadcast: "Right on our southern borders, the Soviet KGB controls the leadership of an opposition political party in Mexico called the PAN, and through the PAN circles, drug-linked circles, the Soviet KGB is deploying terrorism directly into the United States."

The PAN's complaint to the U.S. embassy appeared five days after NBC television's "First Camera" program carried a motley collection of slanders against LaRouche, concocted by "researchers" for the U.S. drug lobby like Dennis King and Chip Barlet. The two are frequent contributors to *High Times* magazine, which promotes the use and legalization of narcotic drugs.

The PAN's Gerardo Medina Valdez, in his open letter to U.S. embassy press attaché Lee Johnson published in the PAN's magazine *La Nación*, demanded that the U.S. embassy officially join the slander campaign against LaRouche: "If possible, we want you to send us, translated into Spanish so as to avoid confusion, disinformation, and high levels of speculation, the report on Mr. LaRouche that the National Broadcasting Corporation's 'First Camera' show is

preparing."

Three days after the PAN's letter appeared, the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* quoted the "First Camera" broadcast in a lengthy attack on LaRouche, whom the paper called "a neo-fascist, an agent of Big Capital who loyally serves the interests of the ruling classes."

Medina wrote in his letter: "The so-called 'Operation Juárez' orchestrated in the United States by citizen Lyndon LaRouche is aimed at denigrating and slandering my party. . . . Our national leadership has submitted a formal petition to the Mexican foreign ministry, denying that the PAN is trying to decouple the north of Mexico to pay the foreign debt."

Then the PAN spokesman issued a blackmail threat against U.S. Ambassador John Gavin: "The U.S. ambassador should clarify why he is being so passive in the face of the blatant interference by his compatriot in Mexican affairs. . . ."

"If Ambassador John Gavin does not reply, we in National Action will put out the word that he supports this dirty interventionist game. As a matter of fact, since the last century the United States has been working with the group which has maintained power in Mexico [the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI] and has been in solidarity with all their actions, because this is in the interests of the United States. . . ."

"We are not blaming you for the use that the ruling PRI party and several Mexican state governors have made of those mercenaries [La-

Rouche's collaborators in the Mexican Labor Party, PLM], but for your passivity in the face of this atrocious interventionism. . . ."

The PAN's charge of U.S. "interference" raised eyebrows in Mexico, in view of the documentation circulated by the PLM showing that the PAN is being supported by factions in the U.S. FBI, CIA, and State Department who are out to destabilize Mexico. Medina demanded that Gavin distance himself from the PLM accusations on this score, but did not quarrel with LaRouche's charge that the PAN is a joint project of the Nazi International and the Soviet KGB.

The PAN's role in running Mexico's drug trade (see *EIR* March 6) is now becoming a national scandal. The marriage of the PAN in the state of Sonora with the local drug mafia was blatantly highlighted March 9, when the PAN candidate for governor, Adalberto Rosas, and the PAN mayor of Hermosillo, Casimiro Navarro, were the special guests of the 1984 graduating class of lawyers—a ceremony under the sponsorship of Agustín Antúnez, the biggest drug pusher in the northwest who has been jailed several times for his dope dealing.

Antúnez is an advocate of the payment of the foreign debt with dirty money coming from the drug trade, a proposal he made on a television show in Hermosillo recently.

The PAN's smear campaign against LaRouche has failed to stifle the influence of "Operation Juárez," a plan to reorganize the debt of Ibero-America and promote continental integration and industrial growth. Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid began a visit to four Ibero-American countries March 26 by calling for closer communication between the countries of the continent to solve the foreign debt problem and build intra-regional trade.