

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Needed: a joint war on drugs

The State Department has designed a provocation at the border to block vital cooperation against Dope, Inc.

At a point when President Reagan and a key group of Ibero-American presidents, including Mexico's Miguel de la Madrid, have decided to close ranks and wipe out the multinational illegal-drug traffic, the U.S. State Department has ignited an international provocation against Mexico that could sabotage that war on drugs.

On Feb. 19 the *New York Times* boasted that it was the State Department that ordered operation "close the border" with Mexico, as an economic reprisal for the kidnaping of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Salazar Caramena on Feb. 7 in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco.

Strict controls were imposed at the U.S.-Mexican search for clues on the kidnaped agent. But all the checks have done is worsen the economic crisis and social chaos caused by International Monetary Fund austerity in Mexico.

The point was sensibly made on Feb. 21 by the Bipartisan Budget Caucus of the U.S. Congress, which demanded an end to the exhaustive inspections "paralyzing the border."

The *Times* blamed Mexican "governmental corruption" and, citing a recent State Department report, "Mexican Mafia-type organizations" and "the institutions that manipulate economic as well as political power" for covering up drug trafficking, given that Mexico is "a major supplier of heroin" and marijuana entering the United States.

But the deployment of the U.S. customs police at all frontier crossings, causing up to five miles of waiting lines for the search of cars and

persons passing the frontier, is part of an operation which the State Department, under orders from Shultz and Kissinger, reactivated last year and which plays right into the dope mafia's hands. The aim is to overturn Mexico's government and bring the National Action Party (PAN) to power, starting with the governorships of at least two border states, Sonora and Nuevo León.

U.S. Ambassador John Gavin and the *New York Times* have been overtly boosting the Nazi-communist PAN, which is full of dope traffickers.

The border affair fits into the economic warfare which the same State Department, in collusion with the International Monetary Fund, has unleashed on Ibero-America, to force nations to turn into drug exporters in business with Dope, Inc. This is the context of the recent visit of the repulsive Dr. Henry Kissinger and his traveling piggybank, David Rockefeller, to Mexico. Each met separately on Feb. 18 with President Miguel de la Madrid and Mexican cabinet members—to ensure that Mexico will not only pay the debt, but will continue submitting to the IMF's genocidal conditions.

Quickly making the indignation of the Mexican government and political parties heard, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor gave a wide-ranging interview to press and television. He announced that President de la Madrid had ordered an investigation of the border situation. He added that the Mexican government was not informed by diplomatic channels of the U.S. decision, but only learned of

it as a *fait accompli*.

Sepúlveda pointed out that the legal entry points being laboriously checked are, of course, not the routes taken by illegal drug traffickers. "It does not seem to us that this operation has a justification. . . . On the contrary, it seems to us that it produces serious irritation to the local population," the foreign secretary stated.

He continued, stressing the need for joint action: "Mexico is determined to fight drug traffic . . . to confront the risks involved, and definitively wipe it out. . . . In 1969 we had a similar problem . . . fortunately overcome by creating 'Operation Cooperation' eliminating the notion of interception. . . . Without doubt, drug traffic is a multinational operation . . . which requires multinational cooperation."

A similarly worded diplomatic note from Mexico was delivered to the State Department on Feb. 21.

Nonetheless, this protest is inadequate. If the Mexican government wants to give an effective lesson to the drug-dealing mafia and the State Department on how one really should combat this evil business, it needs to take immediate action against the Dope, Inc. ringleaders that are springing up all over Mexico.

We refer to the "new" members of the PAN noted for their links to narcotics dealing, such as Manuel Clouthier of Sinaloa, accused in various newspapers of having trafficked in marijuana, and Adalberto Rosas López, the PAN's gubernatorial candidate in Sonora, who maintains close relations with Agustín "Chato" Antuñez, one of the state's most notorious drug runners. Moreover, Dope, Inc. has deeply penetrated into the ranks of the late Miguel Alemán's faction of the ruling PRI, the crowd Henry Kissinger runs around with.