

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

PAN readies electoral violence

The "Party of National Treason" has already begun holding dry runs of its election-day violence scenario.

The preparations of the National Action Party (PAN) for unleashing thousands of shocktroops in an orgy of anti-government violence on election day, July 7, are well under way. On June 5, in a synchronized, military-style dry run, PAN thugs moved to block off all highway access into the eight largest cities of the northern state of Sonora for one precisely-timed hour. Chaos and confusion ensued—as intended.

At the same time, in the northern state of Chihuahua, the PAN-controlled municipal government of Ciudad Juárez has recruited some 4,000 gang youth into paramilitary brigade formations to deploy for maximum violence on July 7. Coordinating the project, according to PRI official Francisco Rodríguez Pérez, is PANista Sergio Américo Lastra, who received his training in Vietnam before hooking up with the fascist TECO gang of Guadalajara. The 4,000 youth are part of a virtual army of 60,000 which the PAN has reportedly been training and arming along the U.S.-Mexican border in preparation for full-scale confrontation with government forces following the elections.

In the Sonoran town of Caborca, two would-be PAN candidates who were disqualified from running have been staging a hunger strike in protest since June 4, despite the fact that the PAN itself had voted May 23 to uphold rigorous electoral standards, the same standards which led to the disqualifications of the two PANistas, along with 16 others.

PAN secretary general Bernardo Batiz has declared that the PAN may adopt the hunger strike as a tactic nationally as the elections near. The hunger strikes would be designed to attract the sympathies of the international human rights crowd, who already have extensive experience in organizing support for terrorists globally.

That the PAN has its election-day chaos scenario well plotted was suggested by recent statements of PAN congressman Humberto Rice, who insisted, "There are no indications of legality in the upcoming elections, and we are not about to be trodden underfoot."

The PAN has consistently predicted that its election-day victories would be stolen through government fraud, an argument designed to serve as the excuse for pre-planned violence throughout the northern border region. Declared the coordinator of the PAN's national congressional slate, Javier González Garza, June 8: "The process of grabbing power from the government has begun with energy, and its action is irreversible."

The PAN's anti-government mobilization has been followed with due concern by nationalist layers both within and outside the ruling PRI party who understand that the PAN's terror scenario could provoke bloody civil war, and even a U.S. military deployment into Mexico, if it is allowed to play out.

In an interview granted to the daily *Unomásuno* on June 17, the day after a 100,000-person labor rally orga-

nized to back the candidates of the PRI, Mexican Labor Confederation leader Fidel Velázquez warned that the PAN was planning "armed uprisings, which are going to have an immediate response, and I believe it will be a hard response."

Velázquez, although by no means the only leader inside the PRI who has charged the PAN with plotting the overthrow of the Mexican government, has been one of the most outspoken. On June 14, speaking in the PANista stronghold of Monterrey, Velázquez promised, "The workers' movement will stop the advance of the reaction. . . . The workers are keeping a close eye on the actions of the enemies of the revolution." Velázquez was particularly incensed by recent statements of PAN chairman Pablo Emilio Madero, who said his party is fighting for "the disappearance of the cooperative farm, free public education, and the trade union," precisely the conquests of the 1917 Mexican revolution.

At the June 16 rally, PRI Senator José Ramírez Gamero called the PAN by its rightful name: "Party of National Treason."

The Mexican Labor Party (PLM) has gone even further. On June 6, PLM Secretary-General Marivilia Carrasco told a Mexico City press conference that the PAN is a tool of foreign interests out to destabilize the Mexican government, and demanded that its legal registration as a political party be rescinded by the de la Madrid government. Carrasco announced the imminent release of a book, authored by a PLM investigative team and entitled, *PAN: The Party of Treason*, which she promised would expose the Nazi-Communist nature of the PAN and its international ties. Carrasco concluded that, in light of the PAN's history of violence, she was asking for round-the-clock police protection to guarantee that the PLM revelations be heard.