

1988, was in Moscow. Its next plenary meeting, from May 25-29 of this year, is in Washington, D.C.

The "Policy Board" meets regularly to map out political initiatives and orientations. Its members in recent years have included Ramphal; former Soviet ambassador to West Germany Vladimir Semyonov; former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua; former Soviet ambassador-at-large Vladimir Suslov; former Peruvian Finance Minister Manuel Ulloa; former Democratic Party National Committee chairman Robert Strauss; former U.S. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird; environmentalist ecology movement patron Maurice Strong; and Spain's Federico Mayor Zaragoza, present head of UNESCO.

### Member: satanic Trust

If much of this appears to be satanic in the broader sense of the word, Ramphal is also hooked into Satanism in the narrower sense of the word: how else to practice genocide, and enjoy it at the same time?

Hence, Ramphal is linked to the London branch of the Lucis (formerly Lucifer) Trust, the umbrella organization for pagan environmentalist and "New Age" movements around the world. Ramphal has at least two identified ties to the Lucis Trust. The most recent edition of *World Goodwill*, the newsletter of the Lucis Trust's World Service Forum, praises the work of the International Television Trust for the Environment, which includes Ramphal among its directors.

Also, Ramphal is working with the London Centre for International Peacebuilding, of the KGB-linked British Gen. Brig. Michael Harbottle, founder of the "Generals for Peace and Disarmament." The Centre claims it is working on a project of "collective security" with the "blessing" of the secretary general of the British Commonwealth. Harbottle has lectured at the Lucis Trust's World Service Forum.

It gets worse and worse. According to a British source in a position to know, Ramphal is the head of the "fundraising appeal" of the St. James-Piccadilly Cathedral in London, which this source identifies as the more-or-less equivalent of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, in sponsoring cultist activity. The key figure at St. James-Piccadilly is the Rev. Trevor Huddleston, chief figure in the "Anti-Apartheid Movement," an organization involved in the destabilization of southern Africa.

This source insists that Ramphal is patronized by the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie. He also claims that Ramphal is very close to India's Romesh Chandra, head of the World Peace Council, a Soviet front. On July 2-4, 1988, the World Peace Council held an "Ecology Meeting" outside Oslo, Norway, with the purpose, according to a WPC document obtained by *EIR*, of "discussing practical ways of implementing . . . the Brundtland report." The WPC document stated that this early-July meeting was preparatory to, and supportive of, a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Oslo one week later.

## Mexican oil workers resist witchhunt

by Carlos Cota Meza

Two months after the arbitrary arrest of Mexican oil workers union leader Joaquín Hernández Galicia and other union leaders, the spectacular operation finds itself in chaos. The government, finding difficulties in sustaining its charges against Hernández Galicia by legal means, has resorted to the expedient of calling his case a "national security problem."

The most recent, prefabricated charge concocted by Assistant Attorney General Javier Coello Trejo, that Hernández Galicia was the "intellectual author" of the 1983 assassination of another union leader, Oscar Torres Pancardo, was dismissed by a judge of the Federal Public Ministry for "lack of proof," in early March. Despite the subsequent reinstatement of the charges after direct intervention by Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, the weakness of the government's case is clear.

Otherwise, the government's imposition of Sebastián Guzmán Cabrera as secretary general of the oil workers union is causing a multitude of problems for the government. Most recently, Guzmán Cabrera tried to actually intervene into the Senate, despite having no jurisdiction or authority to do so, as part of the witchhunt he has launched against all Hernández Galicia loyalists in the union. Guzmán Cabrera asked the Senate to jail oil workers leader Ricardo Camero Cardiel, despite his being a state senator in Tamaulipas. Camero has served for years as administrator for the chain of stores owned by the union. Guzmán Cabrera arrogantly demanded that Senator Camero be stripped of parliamentary immunity and stand trial for "fraud" and "bad management" of the union stores.

This provoked Senate president Emilio González Parra, who also happens to be assistant secretary of the Mexican Labor Confederation, to state categorically in a press conference: "Sebastián Guzmán Cabrera has no business intervening in senatorial affairs . . . not my friend Sebastián Guzmán or anybody."

### Oil workers' membership protests

Guzmán Cabrera's problems at the government level extend as well to the union level. The membership of a number

of the 32 union region-level sections has not let Guzmán Cabrera impose his handpicked leaders on them. At several section meetings in different parts of the country, the henchmen of "Puppet Sebastián" have had to leave with their tails between their legs, and on several occasions even escorted by the police.

At the vanguard of this resistance effort are the workers of Section 1, based in Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas state, the residence of Hernández Galicia for more than 20 years. On Feb. 23, Section 1 charged in an open letter to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari that Guzmán Cabrera "had not complied with" union statutes nor respected the "sectional autonomy" of the union's region-level sections. The workers requested an interview with President Salinas to present their case that the union base "is suffering constant aggression against its labor and union rights, which is creating a climate of uncertainty and insecurity among our members and consequently causing a fall-off in productivity, which in turn damages our national economy."

Many different groups of workers and peasants, of professionals, students, government workers, and industrialists of Tamaulipas, even some affiliated with the ruling PRI party, backed this open letter. On March 13, Section 1 took out another ad also addressed to Salinas, denouncing the arbitrariness of Guzmán Cabrera for firing Section 1 secretary general Juan José García Rodríguez. His interim replacement reported that García had been forced "by pressures and threats" to resign his post. The signers of the ad pledged themselves to continue to recognize García as their leader, and invited Guzmán Cabrera to come to a sectional assembly and "see for himself" the unity of the union.

### **The attempt to 'suicide' Hernández Galicia**

The four sons of Hernández Galicia took out an ad March 7 that refuted, point by point, the government's charges against their father. Claiming he had been arrested "out of vengeance," the ad said "he has been made out to be the worst leader of the country," and that "they want to kill him, 'suiciding' him in jail, as *Excelsior* of three weeks ago, in tententious complicity, made clear.

The charge against *Excelsior* refers to a mysterious article on Feb. 19 which appeared without signature nor indication of author, and cited a supposed "psychological analysis" of the personality of Hernández Galicia produced by psychologists of the Autonomous University of Mexico. Entitled "the last goodbyes of La Quina," ("La Quina" is Joaquín Hernández Galicia's popular nickname), it purports to analyze a videotape, made at the beginning of 1987, allegedly confiscated from La Quina's house the night of the raid.

The psychologists reported, "Among the prominent features is, first, a marked persecution complex evidenced by an obsession with death." Another is a tendency to "paranoid reactions," which the article used to dictate his death sentence, saying that La Quina was believed "ready to sacrifice

his life for his ideals," by committing suicide, "confirming [by his death] that he is one of the elect."

However, the message, as reported by *Excelsior*, also reveals Hernández Galicia charging that "I must make it clear that the reason for my death—for having fought for all of these principles—must not remain secret. The principal cause of my death is [then] President Miguel de la Madrid."

### **Chaos in oil workers administration**

Other political effects of the arbitrary arrest of La Quina are multiplying. On March 12, the management of the national oil company Pemex announced that Pemex's board of directors had voted to revamp the company's policy on chartering tankers carrying its oil, and was expected to rescind existing long-term chartering contracts with Mexican Oil Fleet, a company owned by one Isidoro Rodríguez Ruiz. Rodríguez is the white collar criminal denounced for the past several years by the oil workers union for being the accomplice of former Pemex director Mario Ramón Beteta, who stole millions from Pemex through fraudulent chartering contracts.

The scandal doesn't stop here. Forty-eight hours after the announcement by the Pemex management on chartering, Fernando Hiriart, Energy, Mines and State Industry secretary, said that Pemex's management had not met on the date indicated in their release, and that the "administrative action" cancelling previous chartering arrangements had been taken at a meeting held "two or three years earlier," and was merely just now carried out.

Hiriart's statement confirms what everyone already knew: The whole Beteta-Rodríguez fraud case is strictly political, and the oil workers union was correct from the beginning in charging Beteta with fraud. Rumors didn't take long to spread. It is again being said that Beteta, who is now governor of the State of Mexico, is once again packing his bags in anticipation of a possible demand for his resignation.

### **Fear in the government**

On the eve of the March 18 celebration of the 60th anniversary of the expropriation of the oil industry, the pro-government scribblers in a number of newspapers and magazines came out denouncing the oil workers for turning the holiday—one of the most important civic holidays of the year in Mexico—into a national day demanding freedom for their leader. The fear became such that they even charged that Hernández Galicia was preparing, from his jail cell, an international campaign of charges against the government for holding him prisoner for political reasons.

The fear is not unfounded, although not because of Hernández Galicia. It is now three months since the government made its move, and every day finds more people asking: "Why is he being held prisoner?" Overwhelming numbers are now answering: "Because Hernández Galicia is a political prisoner."