

## Dateline Mexico by Carlos Méndez

### Will Mexico follow the China model?

*The Bush administration is forcing President Salinas to adopt the genocidal birth control methods of Communist China.*

On Feb. 4, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari signed a foreign debt renegotiation pact under the Brady Plan, an event attended by World Bank president Barber Conable, International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus, and United States Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Two days later, in presenting the National Population Program for 1989-94, President Salinas fulfilled an unwritten condition of the debt pact, in declaring that "the level of demographic growth continues very high" in Mexico, and that "therefore it is fundamental to achieve a population growth rate of only 1% by the year 2000."

To achieve such a barbaric result will require "a good dose of coercion, as has occurred in China," charged journalist Moises G. Barbosa in the daily *Unomásuno* Feb. 11.

President Salinas' statements surprised many, above all in light of the upcoming May visit to Mexico of Pope John Paul II, and because the Catholic Church is a fierce opponent of sterilization and other artificial methods of birth control.

But increasingly, commentators are suggesting that the emphasis on such a population goal is the result of pressures from the World Bank and IMF, backed by the U.S. government.

On Feb. 9, columnist José E. Pérez wrote in the daily *Excelsior* that "within days of having concluded the foreign debt renegotiation process, the meeting of the National Population Council awakened the idea among var-

ious circles that multinational credit agencies are pressuring for the imposition of population control policies here. In the circles where this rumor was spreading, the old strategy followed by the World Bank under [Robert Strange] McNamara, through which population control was imposed as a condition for economic aid to the developing nations, was cited."

This World Bank strategy, of course, continues in force today. On Nov. 7, 1989, bank president Conable declared in Ottawa, Canada that the bank would nearly triple its expenses on population reduction activities. Conable, who spoke before the International Planned Parenthood Federation, added that the World Bank will be working with private groups to make "family planning" an accepted practice by "at least one-half of all Third World couples."

According to the Washington, D.C. correspondent of the Mexican daily *El Financiero*, "sources maintain that the 'happy conclusion' of the refinancing package between Mexico and the creditor banks is implicitly tied to a reduction of Mexico's population growth to 1% by the year 2000. The conditions stipulated by the International Monetary Fund rarely contain explicit reference to demographic policy, but it appears 'between the lines' of the negotiation process, the sources noted."

It is thus clear that one of the renegotiation conditions was the drastic reduction of population growth. But it is also clear that achieving this will require application of the methods of

Communist China, a task which required the oversight of the Red Army in that unhappy country.

In his Feb. 11 article in *Unomásuno*, Moises G. Barbosa wrote, "To achieve a rate of 1% by the year 2000, one need only avoid a little more than 5 million births by that year," meaning that of the nearly "2.5 million births that occurred in 1988, we must reach approximately 2 million births a year in 1994, avoiding thus the first 2.5 million. From then on, the efforts will be 'redoubled' even more, so that the number of yearly births would continue to fall, reaching approximately 1.6 million in the year 2000, thereby achieving the proposed reduction. The problem emerges when one observes that the existing children and youth, proportionally higher than the adult population, will shortly be entering the group of fertile-age women, and from the 21.1 million that existed in 1988, that number will reach 25.6 million in 1994 and 29.5 million in 2000, independent of the hypothesis we are dealing with, since this corresponds to an already existing population which as can be seen . . . cannot easily be made to disappear."

Barbosa concluded: "One can only hope that the proposed goal, which is only achievable with a good dose of coercion, as happened in China, is not translated into an abrupt rise in the number of sterilizations or in the proliferation of phrases such as those used by many doctors following administration of abortions: 'Little mother, we put in a little thing so you won't be having any more children.'"

The warning is not far-fetched. The clinics of the Mexican Institute of Social Security and the State Workers' Social Security Institute have been sterilizing mothers for years, without consulting them first—that is, following in the fascist footsteps of Communist China.