

EIR Investigation

EIR helps build resistance to 'Zapatista' threat

by Carlos Wesley

The terrorist upsurge launched by the so-called Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas, Mexico on New Year's Day, threatens the security of every country of the Western Hemisphere, including the United States. That was the message presented at a series of seminars and news conferences held on Jan. 19 and 20 in Washington, Caracas, and Lima to announce the simultaneous release in English and Spanish of *EIR's* new Special Report, "Shining Path North Explodes in Mexico: Zapatista Narco-Terrorists Are Part of the Plot to Annihilate the Nations of Ibero-America."

The report was rushed into publication to mobilize people against the wave of narco-terrorism now threatening all the Americas, said Dennis Small, *EIR's* Ibero-American affairs editor, one of the speakers at the Washington event. "It is not just Mexico. But the United States itself that is threatened. That is why we have called the Chiapas upsurge Shining Path North," a reference to the Peruvian narco-terrorist gang on which the EZLN is modeled.

More than a dozen diplomats, journalists, and others braved a cold so bitter that it forced the U.S. government to shut down, to attend the Jan. 19 press conference in Washington given by Small and *EIR's* Mexico City Bureau editor Carlos Cota.

Who and why

"How is it that we were able to put together such a comprehensive report just 19 days after the upsurge in Chiapas?" Small asked. "The reason is because we have known this was going to happen, and have been warning about it for the past 13 years."

Small cited *EIR* founding editor Lyndon LaRouche's comment on the insurgency: "This is not an indigenous movement. This is, together with the Guatemala insurrection, orga-

nized from the outside," by foreign intelligence services, including British intelligence, chiefly working under the cover of foreign anthropologists and missionaries. The aim is to splinter Mexico and the other nation-states of the Americas with ethnic warfare, like that in former Yugoslavia.

Already in 1979-80, said Small, LaRouche and *EIR* were warning about Zbigniew Brzezinski's threat that the United States would not allow another Japan to develop on its borders, following the discovery of significant oil deposits in Chiapas and other southern states that would have allowed Mexico to finance a massive industrialization program. *EIR* also exposed the malthusian policies of Global 2000 and the 1974 National Security Council memoranda that were developed under Henry Kissinger, which called for halving the population of Mexico and other Third World countries, or even depopulating them entirely.

This is the "why" of Chiapas, said Small.

Against this stands the "LaRouche Doctrine," which states that "all nations are absolutely sovereign," and have the right to technological progress. LaRouche says that it is in the national interest of the United States for it to promote growth in Mexico.

As to the "who," Small gave a detailed presentation of the international forces behind the "indigenist" terrorist insurgency being run by the Anglo-American bankers. Among those listed in the *EIR* report are Harvard's Chiapas Project, out of which have come 27 books and 21 doctoral dissertations; the Cuban-run São Paulo Forum, to which belongs the PRD of Mexican presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, and the URNG guerrilla group of Guatemalan Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú; the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based pro-drug-legalization bankers' think-tank, which last year set up a project on "Ethnic Divisions and Consolida-

tion of Democracies in the Americas"; the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other components of the Anglo-American financial intelligence network.

The media's 'big lie'

EIR's Mexico City Bureau editor Carlos Cota gave an explosive report on the situation on the ground in Mexico. He attacked the media's "big lie" that Mexico's military intelligence was taken by surprise by the EZLN's initial assault. The Army knew what was going to happen and had the capacity to deal with it, but there was a political decision by the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, not to take action. In fact, the Army was forbidden to move against the EZLN even *after* they launched their offensive. It wasn't until the EZLN itself attacked a military base, that the Army was allowed to shoot back in self-defense.

As evidence that the intelligence was available, Cota cited a report issued shortly after the outbreak by Mexico's Department of Interior (see accompanying text). The report confirms that "these are no Indians," said Cota. He discussed the role of the liberation theologians around Samuel Ruíz, "the red bishop" of San Cristóbal, Chiapas. He also denounced the so-called human rights lobby and the media for spreading unfounded accusations of "genocide," "torture," and "murder" by the military against unarmed Indian civilians. Some of those making the charges admit that they have not even entered the contested area, and one mass grave opened by investigators turned out to contain the corpses of 10 uniformed EZLNers, killed in battle and not by execution, as had been alleged.

The people running the EZLN are part of an international apparatus, many of them foreigners, who are trained in guerrilla warfare. On Jan. 19, the daily *Reforma* reported that the EZLN command staff includes the German Karl Lenkersdorf Schmidt and his mistress, Jeanine Archimbaud (or Janina Archinbaum, according to an earlier report).

Political victory for the guerrillas

Although hamstrung by the government, Mexico's Armed Forces succeeded in recapturing nearly all the towns taken over by the EZLN in Chiapas. But, while being defeated militarily, the EZLN has been achieving one political victory after another. On Jan. 16, President Salinas announced a blanket amnesty for all those involved in the violence. Earlier, he had ordered a unilateral cease-fire by government forces.

Then his newly appointed peace commissioner, former Foreign Minister Manuel Camacho Soliz, agreed completely to the terrorists' demand for recognition. "The EZLN must be recognized as a political, military, and ideological reality," he said. "I have referred to you as the EZLN, respecting the name that has given you identity." Camacho also accepted the idea that Ruíz would mediate the talks, as demanded by the terrorists. Moreover, against everything stated by the

government's own intelligence report, Camacho lent credibility to the EZLN claims that they are an "indigenous movement," by saying that "western language is no good. We must speak as they speak." On Jan. 19 he went one step further by having a message repeatedly broadcast by radio in several Indian dialects, stating: "It is necessary for all Mexicans to beg forgiveness from the indigenous for all the suffering they have lived through."

In Caracas, Venezuela, Alejandro Peña introduced the *EIR* report on Jan. 20 to nearly 100 professionals, military people, and students, noting that Venezuela had narrowly escaped a Chiapas-styled outbreak during last December's elections, thanks to a timely intervention by LaRouche's associates, who denounced an attempted takeover by the Radical Cause party. But the danger is not yet over.

The same day in Lima, *EIR's* Peruvian representative Luis Vásquez told over two dozen businessmen, diplomats, military officers, and government officials that there is no comparison between Chiapas and the 1989 protests against the International Monetary Fund's policies in Venezuela, nor with last year's anti-austerity riots in Santiago del Estero, Argentina. The Chiapas upsurge is not directed against the neoliberal free market policies of the Anglo-American bankers, but is intended to protect those policies.

Vásquez said that the Chiapas insurgency was facilitated by the so-called Truth Commission, a leftist operation launched against the Mexican Army last year, and by the murder, in May of last year, of Cardinal Jesús Posadas Ocampo, the archbishop of Guadalajara. Posadas was a staunch opponent of Salinas's neoliberal economic policies, exemplified by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). But he also fought vigorously against the proponents of Marxist liberation theology, such as Bishop Ruíz, who seek to divide the church. By appeasing the EZLN, warned Vásquez, "the Mexican government has handed the armed left in Latin America its biggest victory since Fidel Castro led the Cuban Revolution. This could be the beginning of an irregular war that in a matter of months could involve more than 250 million people in North and Central America," he said.

Already, Indian "leaders" on the bankers' payroll are descending on Chiapas in droves and calling for the violence to be replicated in other places. A Canadian delegation sponsored by the leader of the International Center for Human Rights, socialist Ed Broadbent, returned from Mexico denouncing alleged "abuses of the right of indigenous people." The Canadian delegation was headed by Ovide Mercredi, "Chief of the Assembly of First Nations," who was accompanied by two anthropologists and one expert in "aboriginal" affairs. Two years ago, there was an "Indian" uprising in Quebec.

In Chile, Aucan Hilcaman, a leader of the Mapuche Indians, called for "the return of all the lands that were in the hands of the Mapuches before the arrival of the Spaniards, and for refounding the nations of Latin America, to make

them fit for 'indigenous cultural forms,' " reported the Buenos Aires daily *El Cronista* on Jan. 18.

Resistance builds

In Mexico, there is beginning to be resistance to the government's policy of appeasement. Indigenous communities are staging marches demanding that the Army stay and that the self-proclaimed human rights agencies leave, since they are providing cover to the EZLN. One such march was staged in Ocosingo.

The Jan. 13-19 issue of the weekly *Siempre* carried a seven-page spread titled "The EZLN War: Support for Cárdenas and a Pretext for U.S. Intervention," which featured LaRouche's statement that the insurgency was not an indigenous phenomenon, but steered by foreigners. In its Jan. 20-26 issue, the magazine's editorial attacked the "irresponsible and opportunist, even fanatical, attitude that certain partisan politicians and media have adopted, when they accuse the Mexican Army of having acted as assassins in Chiapas, an accusation that rests, more than on evidence, on suppositions and on the discrediting of the Armed Forces." The editorial pointed out that the EZLN leaders armed themselves with modern weapons while they gave the Indians "wooden guns."

Sources in Mexico say that Cárdenas has been stung by the *Siempre* coverage and is readying a major counterattack against LaRouche and *EIR*.

The LaRouche statement also appeared in *La Estrella de Panamá* and Argentina's *El Informador Público*, among other publications.

Columnist Ariel Remos, of the Miami-based daily *Diario Las Américas*, on Jan. 12 reported that the events in Chiapas are "part of what was agreed at the Havana meeting of the São Paulo Forum" last July. Similar reports have been written by columnist Patricio Rickets of the Peruvian daily *Expreso*.

Mexican government assesses EZLN threat

The following is a report issued by Mexico's Department of Interior (Gobernación), with material supplied by the National Defense Department and Attorney General's Office, on Jan. 7, 1994.

Introduction

Beginning in the first hours of Jan. 1, a difficult situation has developed in four municipalities in the state of Chiapas: San Cristóbal de las Casas, Ocosingo, Las Margaritas, and Altamirano.

A violent and armed group attacked the capitals of these municipalities, destroyed offices and archives, assassinated

and physically attacked policemen and civilians, took hostages, stormed businesses, seized the local radio station of Ocosingo, released prisoners from the region's detention and rehabilitation centers, attacked installations of the Federal Electricity Commission, and even fired upon a Red Cross ambulance on its way to assist.

The information available on this violent and aggressive group which is operating in the state of Chiapas has made it possible to determine its principal characteristics and many of those presumed to be responsible for leading it. Thus, we know that its leaders come from different origins, national and foreign; experts in combat, highly trained and educated, they have planned, trained, and now lead the actions of this radical group. It's different with the others; these are locals, Indians, manipulated or pressured, who have taken part in the violent actions. This is not an Indian movement nor a peasant action. This is the work of professionals manipulating those who are disaffected and who have recently suffered adverse economic conditions.

As has been widely reported, several Indian and peasant towns have rejected the aggressors. One angry Indian community in the town of Oxchuc managed to capture six members of the aggressor group, displaying them in the plaza and handing them over to the Mexican Army, which has already placed them at the disposition of civilian authorities. A similar reaction occurred in different parts of Altamirano municipality, which feared that the aggressors would return and called upon the media to request aid from the Mexican Army. The Indian and peasant organizations of Chiapas have turned to the authorities, demanding the Mexican Army provide protection and offering their full participation in suppressing the aggression. This has also been reported by international and national news agencies. For this reason, it is important to reiterate that this is not an Indian or a peasant movement, but rather the actions of a radical group led by professionals who are deceiving, and even impressing, the Indians.

As is explained in this text, throughout the last year there was information on various illegal activities by groups operating in this border zone. Among these were trafficking in weapons and military supplies, isolated attacks against local police and ambushes against members of the Armed Forces, threats against producers to obtain economic or logistical support, extorting money through sale of "safe-conduct passes," violent land invasions, establishment of training camps, and reports of calls for sedition, taking advantage of the impoverishment of the region.

They have adopted a political language which leaves no doubt of their determination to do battle with the Mexican Army and State. They hide behind the name of Emiliano Zapata, who is profoundly respected by our people, to pursue their violent objectives. They show a double face: friendly and courteous to the tourists in San Cristóbal de las Casas, and extremely virulent and bloody against our mixed-race and Indian compatriots in Ocosingo. While the *comandantes*