

Cornered, Castro tries immigration war

by Gretchen Small

August 1994 was not a good month on any front for Cuba's Erich Honecker, Fidel Castro. On Aug. 5, dissent exploded onto the streets with the first mass protest against his regime in decades. With the protesters' chants of "Freedom, freedom" still echoing inside Cuba, Castro also saw his principal foreign policy strategy—to secure a continental power-base through the coming to power of member parties of the Cuban-run São Paulo Forum in key nations of the Americas—delivered a potentially deadly blow, with the peaceful completion of the Mexican presidential elections, in which São Paulo Forum candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas was handed a crushing defeat.

Castro's response was to attempt a replay of the 1980 Mariel immigration crisis. On Aug. 5, Castro began *encouraging* his fellow Cubans to risk their lives at sea on makeshift boats and rafts, if they hoped for food or freedom. Such cynical abuse of his fellow Cubans, he expected, would divert the growing internal pressure on his regime outward, while lobbing a political hand-grenade into U.S. domestic politics, destabilizing the Clinton administration, among other things by building up the campaign of Jeb Bush in the upcoming Florida gubernatorial elections, and thus forcing the Clinton administration to accept negotiations—on Castro's terms.

But Castro's attempt to judo *his* crisis into a crisis for Clinton, did not succeed—much to the chagrin of the British and their allies in the Bush crowd, who have been casting about desperately for some way or other to bring down the Clinton presidency. But Clinton "dodged the bullet," in the words of Jeb Bush's frustrated campaign adviser, and instead ordered measures to stop the flow of refugees, and tightened

measures against the Castro regime. By the end of the month, Castro, who had blustered repeatedly that the refugee crisis would not end until the United States accepted discussions on ending the embargo, agreed instead to hold talks with the United States limited to the immigration issue. Interviewed on Havana Radio and TV Networks on Aug. 25, a defensive Castro denied he had "wanted to annoy Clinton," insisting all reports that his regime has a "special antagonism" toward the Clinton administration were false.

The Cuban crisis remains dramatic and dangerous: Castro is an entrenched dictator who may threaten bloody civil war if he doesn't get his way; and some sources report that George Bush's friends would also like to see such a civil war erupt in Cuba. But if the U.S. President stands his ground as he has so far, and if the United States and the nations of Ibero-America pressure Castro to go quietly, the world now faces the joyful prospect that Cubans can free themselves from the communist prison camp in which they have been trapped for some 35 years.

In an Aug. 25 campaign statement, American statesman Lyndon LaRouche assessed the situation thusly: "Given the circumstances, President William Clinton deserves credit for the way he has responded to the latest political stunt by Cuba's leading São Paulo Forum member, Fidel Castro. Any different response would have played into the hands of former President George Bush and Bush's partners in the Hollinger Corp. efforts to destabilize the government of the United States.

"Now, Fidel Castro must see clearly that his latest game has failed. If he were wise, his next message to the Clinton administration would be a request for cooperation in arrang-

ing for his own orderly departure from Cuba, quietly but surely abandoning his connections to any further attempts at fomenting a South America “Hullabalula” by the forces and super-wealthy backers of the leftist São Paulo Forum.”

Breaking the São Paulo Forum game

EIR has warned since 1992 of the danger represented by the São Paulo Forum, the continental movement of narco-terrorist armies and political parties the Cuban Communist Party founded in 1990 after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Exactly one year ago, in our Sept. 13, 1993 issue, *EIR* exposed what no other U.S. English-speaking press dared report: that the São Paulo Forum had adopted a strategy at its July conference in Havana to take power in at least six countries in the Americas over the next two years, combining electoral and terrorist tactics. The electoral targets were Venezuela (December 1993, with the Causa R party representing the Forum), Mexico (August 1994; Cárdenas’s Democratic Revolutionary Party), and Brazil (October 1994; the Workers Party).

Later, informed sources in South America told *EIR* that Castro was banking, in particular, upon a victory at the polls by his fellow co-founder of the São Paulo Forum, Brazilian Workers Party candidate Luís Inacio “Lula” da Silva. If the Cuban regime secures Brazil as its power base in South America—as a Lula victory would—Castro’s options for survival change dramatically.

EIR warned that what made the Cuban-directed Forum a major strategic threat to the hemisphere, was the support it had received from powerful forces in Washington globally during the Bush presidency, from Bush leftovers within the Clinton administration, as well as from sectors of the State Department allied with the bankers’ think-tank, the Inter-American Dialogue. The Inter-American Dialogue, which managed to get its president, Richard Feinberg, named to head the Latin American desk at the National Security Council, went so far as to host Castro’s São Paulo Forum candidates in Washington in April 1993, presenting them as the standard-bearers of a new democracy in the region.

Beginning Causa R party’s defeat in the December 1993 elections in Venezuela, however, Castro’s Forum option has begun to unravel. The rout of Cárdenas in Mexico badly hurt his Brazilian ally, Lula, already failing in the polls. Some Brazilians now believe Lula could even be defeated in the first round of the elections.

What Castro’s minions have begun to discover, is that they no longer enjoy the backing of the U.S. presidency, and their power to sow chaos has declined accordingly. The Mexican elections evidenced this shift. Cárdenas had declared that anything short of his victory at the polls would be ipso facto proof that the elections were fraudulent. He welcomed international oversight of the elections, expecting to be assured of international back-up for his charges of fraud, along the lines of the destabilization run against the

Dominican Republic by the Project Democracy apparatus in the State Department after the May presidential elections there. But unlike the Dominican Republic, when Cárdenas cried fraud, he found himself alone.

Some people see similar significance in the fact that one of the foreign advisers to Lula’s leading opponent, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, is reportedly U.S. Democrat James Carville, a top adviser to Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign.

‘Freedom, freedom!’

Whether the protesters who poured on to the streets of Havana numbered 5,000, or the 30,000 estimated by some Cuban-Americans, the events of Aug. 5 demonstrated that the terror of the regime’s oppressive security apparatus has begun to crumble. Faced with mass protest, the Cuban authorities were afraid to shoot.

Cuban “experts” may screech all they want, as the Inter-American Dialogue’s Jorge Domínguez did, that the protest of Aug. 5, while admittedly large, was an “isolated incident,” but more serious observers remember that it was through such “isolated incidents” that the mass uprisings which brought down the communist tyrannies in eastern Europe began.

Eastern Europe is much on Cuban minds. Cuban authorities trace the beginning of the current migration crisis to July 13, when Cuban authorities sank a tugboat carrying Cubans fleeing the island, killing half of those aboard. The regime denounced as “propaganda” the charge that the sinking was deliberate, but inside Cuba, many compared the atrocity to the East German police shooting down Germans attempting to flee over the Berlin Wall.

Internally, the Catholic Church has stepped forward as one venue for aiding an orderly transition to freedom, without a descent into bloody civil war. On Sept. 8, 1993, Cuba’s Patron Saint day, the Cuban Catholic Bishops issued a message to the Cuban state and people, including those abroad, calling for liberty, *agapē*, and moral order to be restored in Cuba. One of the sharpest statements ever made public on a large scale inside the police state, the bishops insisted that change must be achieved through dialogue, but a dialogue premised on true liberty, a freeing of the many unjustly held prisoners, an end to the excessive control of the state security bodies, relief from the “tiring repetition of slogans” and “omnipresent official ideology,” the rule of hatred, and a justice system premised upon “an eye for an eye.”

Foreign tourism, monies, and investments are not the only answer to Cuba’s crisis, they stated; “everything can be resolved among Cubans,” including those “whom we have made into foreigners.” This, combined with “a Latin American integration” to which Cuba, as the other countries of the region, aspires, must be the answer to “the sad experience of foreign intervention into our national affairs” over the last two centuries—including that resulting from the regime’s former alliance with the former Soviet Union. “Poor coun-

tries should join together to overcome their negative dependency with respect to the rich countries.”

Back to prostitution, gambling, and the IMF

The Cuban regime has shown in the past year that it is willing to sacrifice anything, in order to stay in power. In the name of encouraging tourism, legalized gambling has already returned to the island, with the Cuban government operating a casino in a joint venture with the Italian company Fratelli Cosulich. Cuba's yuppie Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina admitted to the London *Sunday Telegraph* in May 1993 that Cuban prostitutes “are said to be among the cheapest in the world.” He justified women's (girls, mostly) resort to prostitution to answer their “material needs,” as similar to the regime's current policy of maximizing national revenue—by whatever means possible.

Top British and other speculators otherwise feeding off the collapse of the former Soviet bloc countries, are already cutting their deals with the Castro regime for looting Cuba. The fugitive buddy of George Soros, Marc Rich, was reported negotiating deals to develop Cuba's uranium, lead, zinc, and copper deposits back in 1992. The Dutch banking cartel, ING Bank, another quiet but powerful extension of the British financial cartel, arranged financing for Cuba's nickel mining earlier this year. Italy's porn-businessman, Luciano Benetton, opened up operations in Cuba in January 1993, praising Castro in the process for having “inspired entire generations.”

The Castro regime has reportedly applied to rejoin the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. IMF officials Jacques de Groot and Frank Moss paid a “personal” visit to Havana in November 1993. They issued a report following the trip noting Havana's “keen interest” in working with the IMF, asserting that Cuban policy “changes represent a clear change of strategy [which] . . . will inevitably pick up momentum.”

It is not surprising, then, that these British-centered interests denounced President Clinton's August measures to stop Castro's gambit as, in the words of a hysterical Aug. 22 *Financial Times* editorial, going “precisely in the wrong direction. . . . Reformers within the government must be encouraged,” by such measures as letting Cuba join the World Bank and the IMF, they demanded. Similar squawks were heard from the Inter-American Dialogue, which called a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 26 to demand that Clinton change course. “The President has made a strong statement, and he will have to reconsider that . . . within the next few days,” Dialogue president Peter Hakim pronounced. Jorge Domínguez, coordinator of the Dialogue's Special Task Force on Cuba, reiterated the Task Force's adamant position that the U.S. government must not base any policy upon the ouster of Fidel Castro. Domínguez urged the U.S. government to instead accept Cuba's application to join the IMF and World Bank, as the “most effective” measure to promote “reform” in Cuba.

How communism fell in Czechoslovakia

by Dr. Jozef Miklosko

This speech was given in July 1994 by Slovakian mathematician Dr. Miklosko, the former deputy premier of post-communist Czechoslovakia, before the countries separated. Dr. Miklosko is currently chairman of the group Nadacia Spolupatricnost (“We Belong Together”), which co-sponsored, with the Schiller Institute, a seminar with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche near Bratislava, Slovakia in August. Dr. Miklosko's speech has been abridged slightly.

The fall of communism, our fathers' dream for a long time, was given to us by God. Totalitarianism and oppression of the mind lasted for 40 years. Forty is a symbolic number. After 40 days of rain, the Flood came, and Noah let a dove fly from the ark. Elijah made his pilgrimage for 40 days to Mt. Horeb. Jonah gave the town of Nineveh 40 days in which to carry out a conversion. Moses was given the Ten Commandments after 40 days of fasting. The Israelites wandered for 40 years through the desert to the promised land. The countries of the East bloc lived for 40 years surrounded by the Red Sea of communism, and after wandering in the desert of totalitarianism, they hoped that the time had come to live in the promised land.

Nearly five years after the fall of the communist empire, we, the Christians, know that freedom has two faces, that the promised land is still far away, and that it will hardly be reached without diligence and toil.

What was it that caused our liberation from totalitarianism? It is nearly forgotten, and unpopular in both East and West today to do so, but it was especially the 40 years of prayer, sacrifice, suffering, fasting, and pilgrimage of millions of people that defeated communism. In Czechoslovakia, tens of thousands were put into jail, sentenced to hundreds of thousands of years in prison. All religious schools, publishing houses, and hospitals were destroyed. In the spring of 1950, in just two nights more than 900 nuns were forced to close, 15,000 priests and sisters were put in concentration camps for years. Nevertheless, the church was there; it even flourished in those times. The church was well structured and organized, and did its main work in the underground. Children, youth, students, and families regularly met in secret assemblies and worked well. A culture existed: There were *samizdat* [underground] publishers, and western media and books were smuggled into the country. Hundreds of thousands joined in pilgrimages for the Virgin Mary and other religious feasts.