

Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

Decertify Bush! say Mexicans

A healthy reaction erupts against the offensive orchestrated by London, over the decertification fight.

The attempt by U.S. Republicans, and some Democrats, to override President Clinton's certification of Mexico as a cooperating partner in the fight against narcotics, helped clarify, in the mind of Mexicans, who is who in U.S. politics. As President Ernesto Zedillo told his fellow citizens, President Clinton has acted as a "true friend" of Mexico, offering respect and collaboration, whereas the attitudes exhibited in the U.S. Congress are "rude, offensive, aggressive, and completely inadequate."

Referring to the threats to overthrow the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) raised in the U.S. Senate debate on decertification, and to demands voiced in the House that armed U.S. law enforcement agents be allowed to engage in hot pursuit of presumed drug-runners into Mexican territory, Zedillo added: "We draw the line" if and when the U.S. Congress passes laws "which would have practical consequences for our country. Our sovereignty and our dignity as a nation, are not negotiable."

In a speech on the 59th anniversary of the nationalization of Mexico's oil industry, Zedillo warned that "those who think that Mexicans lack the unity to defend their sovereignty, ignore history, and know little of the character of the Mexicans."

Zedillo's strong defense of sovereignty—and full cooperation with the Clinton administration in the war on drugs—helped to slow down the British-sponsored offensive to provoke open warfare between the United States and Mexico. Some Mexicans took the matter a step further, and identified who their real drug-running

enemies are.

At a March 19 press conference, for example, the national president of the Mexican Democratic Party, Baltazar Valadez Montoya, now also the party's candidate for mayor of Mexico City, accused the U.S. House of Representatives of being "hypocrites," because "they say nothing about the accusations of those who maintain that, during the George Bush administration (including his two terms as vice president), drug trafficking was run virtually as 'state policy.'" Valadez cited the resolution passed by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, which represents some 600 legislators from 44 states, which charges that officials of the U.S. government were responsible, in the 1980s, for having initiated the "crack" epidemic, as a covert operation to finance the Contras in Nicaragua.

Likewise, Arturo Hernández Fernández, president of the National Chambers of Commerce of Celaya, Guanajuato, in his "Debate" column in that state's edition of *El Nacional* daily, noted that, "while the Mexican government pressed charges against [Mexico's anti-drug czar] Gen. José Gutiérrez Rebollo, the U.S. has not had the courage to do what is required in the case of Bush." The evidence of Bush's leading role in the drug trade, he wrote, is presented in the Special Report *Drug Super-Kingpin, George Bush*, a report which was given to the Inspectors General of the CIA and the Justice Department, and to investigators of the U.S. Congress, "the same who today would deny certification to Mexico."

Hernández was referring to *EIR's*

Special Report, *Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?*, which has become a best-seller in Mexico, where everyone knows that Bush is the Godfather of the most hated politician in the country, former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

But the British-led offensive to discredit the institutions of Mexico continues. On March 18, Diego Fernández de Ceballos, the former Presidential candidate of the National Action Party (PAN), an intimate of Carlos Salinas who is also close to the Bush crowd in the U.S., accused President Zedillo of owning a luxury estate in Punta Diamante, Guerrero, near Acapulco, valued way above what he could legitimately purchase with his reported income. The charges were intended to imply that all of Mexico's institutions, including the Presidency, are hopelessly corrupt, and need to be razed to the ground—which would, of course, allow the drug cartels to take over.

On March 19, President Zedillo made a surprise TV appearance to respond to PAN leader Fernández—whose extensive property in that very Punta Diamante development a judge had just ordered seized for failure to pay taxes! Zedillo countered that he did not own property in Punta Diamante: The only way anyone can own property there, he charged, was "with ill-gotten money . . . stolen money," adding that "neither my salary as a public servant, nor even the Presidential salary, is sufficient to buy such a thing." What he had bought, on credit, with his salary, was a modest property in an area named *Playa Diamante*.

The President noted that he chose to respond to this slander, because the insinuation "would deprive me of moral and legal authority when I most need it, to confront the problems which Mexico is undergoing."