

Mexico's Cárdenas is as fascist as the IMF

by Carlos Cota Meza

It is universally acknowledged in Mexico that the “conditionalities” that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) imposes in more than 100 nations around the world are based on the economic policy of Nazi Germany. So, what do we call someone whose bid for power in a country is premised on the planned application of those very same policies? Such is the case of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, who has taken off his mask while campaigning for the post of Mexico City's mayor in the July 6 elections, and stands revealed as what he has always been — a national-socialist.

Since the inception of his current electoral campaign, Cárdenas, candidate of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), has repeatedly insisted that he has “changed” since his 1988 Presidential campaign — when he cultivated an anti-IMF image. Now, he has declared himself a supporter of the free market and, along with other PRD leaders, has repeatedly assured Mexico's international creditors that the foreign debt of the country *will* be paid, come what may, and that the orgy of privatizations launched under President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-94) will *not* be reversed. As Cárdenas told a group of New York bankers and businessmen last May, “We believe in the free market.”

With this program, and with such public guarantees, Cárdenas has just received the open support of none other than Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF. Speaking to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on June 17, Camdessus claimed that a victory for the opposition should not be cause for concern, given that the opposition leaders (such as himself) will “behave responsibly” — a euphemism for sticking to the IMF's rules.

Camdessus's backing for Cárdenas's candidacy is intended to pave the way not only for his election to the powerful Federal District post, but also for the pro-terrorist PRD to capture the congressional majority, which the ruling PRI party has held for decades. These two developments would cause a dangerous paralysis of the Mexican Presidency and other national institutions, and would facilitate the bankers' plans for the disintegration of Mexico.

PRD's economic program

Camdessus has every reason to trust that Cárdenas and the PRD will “do their part”: a quick review of the PRD's Program for Economic Development with Social Justice, confirms that trust.

The PRD announced that in preparing its economic program, it not only used a “macroeconomic” model, but also a “microeconomic” and even “mesoeconomic” model! The words are meaningless: As the PRD members themselves explain, their program uses as its point of departure “the economic results of 1996 and some economic projections for 1997, very similar to the results of the Ciemex-Wharton economic model.”

The era of econometric modelling in Mexico was inaugurated during Miguel de la Madrid's term (1982-88), with the application of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business model. That model had been created by Lawrence Klein, who was given the Nobel Prize for economics as his reward.

The results were already quite visible at the end of the De la Madrid government: a budget deficit greater than that left by the previous López Portillo government, devaluation of the peso and hyperinflation, massive unemployment, and economic depression. However, Cárdenas and his technocratic whiz-kids now say that that same policy will create “5 million new jobs, of which at least 3.5 million will be permanent, and the rest, eventually.”

But in the “how” part of the program, one finds the following constructs: To create the million and a half “eventual” jobs, the PRD will promote “the creation of jobs in sectors with major participation in the market of non-commercial goods,” and to prevent “the increase of jobs impacting on the competitiveness of the economy on the international market, these will be created in labor-intensive branches of the economy, producers of wage-goods and low imports.”

“Non-commercial goods”? “Wage-goods”? This is nothing less than the infamous National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) of Carlos Salinas. The community will be organized, says the PRD, to construct “infrastructure works . . . as well as works related to public and social services, such as potable water and sewerage, street paving, electrification and housing, among others.”

Paragraphs like these can be found in any report issued by the Salinas government, and in any speech by Carlos Rojas Gutiérrez, President Ernesto Zedillo's secretary of Social Development (Sedesol).

Pronasol, whether it belong to Salinas or Cárdenas, has the same origin: the Obligatory Work Service (*Arbeitsdienst*) of Nazi Germany, created and run by Col. Constantin Hierl, who maintained that the idea of “obligatory work service means something very different from just a temporary resource born of difficult times, to fight massive unemployment. The idea rather incorporates the logical continuation and necessary fulfillment of the idea that led to obligatory education and obligatory military service.”

After World War II, nations ruled by communism created “voluntary” work services, “international brigades,” and later the famous Cuban “Pioneer” brigades, which were sponsored year after year by Cárdenas and his mother.

For the creation of permanent jobs, the PRD program proposes “to increase the generation of jobs in the agricultural, construction, and tourism sectors, as well as in the *maquiladora* industries.”

In other words, Cárdenas is promising the permanent application of the same program imposed by De la Madrid, Salinas, and now Zedillo, as well as by the PAN governors who claim to be the main job creators in the *maquiladora* zones of the country which, as is well known, have as their main “competitive advantage,” the availability of cheap labor. By saying that his job program “will not impact on international competitiveness,” Cárdenas is saying that he will not raise wages.

It is also important to note that Cárdenas and the PRD economic program propose a devaluation of the peso. According to the PRD, the Bank of Mexico’s monetary policy “has provoked an appreciation of the peso,” and as “the best alternative,” they propose “a flexible exchange scheme, favoring the lower end. A floating band with a floor but no roof, has the advantage of maintaining undervaluation, without running the risks of excessive inflows of money.”

PRD President Andrés Manuel López Obrador insists that he has no fundamental differences with President Zedillo. At least in this, they share the same economic policy. The government’s National Program for Financing Development also seeks a “free-floating” exchange rate, to be seen as “one more price of the economy.”

Cárdenas, Bush’s new darling

It is clear that Cárdenas has already told certain political forces in the United States what he will do should he reach power in Mexico. One can attribute to this the shameless promotion that Cárdenas is receiving from representatives of George Bush’s “new world order.”

In a forum offered by the Washington-based Brookings Institution, Richard Feinberg, currently a dean at the University of California, former director for Latin America of President Clinton’s first National Security Council, and the ex-president of the Inter-American Dialogue, spoke of Cárdenas’s “probable victory,” and urged Wall Street not to “exaggerate” or “mistakenly interpret” such a victory. Feinberg, a longtime advocate of ousting the PRI, expressed confidence that Cárdenas’s PRD is sufficiently “mature” to avoid provoking any shocks to the financial markets. He added that many Ibero-American leaders were coming to power with “populist” ideas, only to undergo a metamorphosis and become adherents of the “free market.”

Reiterating comments that he made in early 1994, Feinberg boasted that the Zapatistas were alive today, thanks to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), whose pressures forced the Mexican government to refrain from a military response to the terrorists. The PRD today serves as a legal facade both for the Zapatistas in Chiapas, a state rich in oil and minerals, and for the Popular Revolutionary Army,



Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas now declares himself a supporter of the free market, and receives the blessing of the IMF’s Camdessus.

based in the drug-producing state of Guerrero.

The Inter-American Dialogue was created in 1982 as a southward extension of David Rockefeller’s Trilateral Commission, and its purpose is to prevent a resurgence of nationalism in that portion of the hemisphere; national armies must be destroyed, and a “collective military force” created, to “preserve,” “defend,” or “impose” so-called democracy. It further proposes the “selective” legalization of drugs and the imposition of “limited sovereignty.”

Julius Katz stated at that same forum that “the expectation is that Cárdenas will win and the PRI will lose the Congress,” but that “nothing will happen” to the markets. Katz stated that Wall Street has “already assimilated” the probable victory of the opposition in Mexico. Katz is recognized as George Bush’s number-two NAFTA negotiator; he is also one of the advocates of the idea that “intelligence operations are carried out through trade,” a concept imposed since Bush was CIA director. That idea led directly to the creation of a “private CIA” at the service of the world’s leading trade cartels.

Feinberg and Katz were promoting a book, *Coming Together? Mexico-U.S. Relations*, written by Luis Rubio, a former Mexican officer of Citibank during the Salinas de Gortari government, when Salinas’s brother Raúl laundered millions of narco-dollars through that banking institution.

So, what are these banking agents doing, giving their support to Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas? Laurent Kabila, the Hitler of Zaire, first made his deals with the great mining consortiums, and then came to power. The PRD’s Program for Economic Development with Social Justice, 1998-2000, shows that Cárdenas has struck his deals, as well.