

saulted MSIA organizers, this time in Mexico City. Four days later, *El Financiero* columnist Angel Viveros lied that Rubén Cota “only had to say he hadn’t done it, to obtain his immediate release” from jail.

So, in the space of ten days, Rubén Cota was accused, jailed, interrogated, and released—only in the media world of virtual reality. At that point, many honest journalists were calling the MSIA’s offices to ask “Okay. The issue isn’t that you produced the videos, but rather who is slandering you and why?”

NED sponsors Mexican separatism

by Cynthia Rush

Over the past five years, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a quasi-governmental organization linked to the “secret government” apparatus of Sir George Bush of Iran-Contra fame and other sordid activities, has poured almost \$3 million into Mexico, allegedly to promote “democracy” and defend “human rights.” This financing was not a matter of throwing a few grants here and there to small groups or idealistic individuals deemed worthy of support; nor is this the work of a few well-intentioned, naive leftists striving to defend human rights.

The NED and the U.S.-based organizations it finances, such as the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and its Republican counterpart, the International Republican Institute (IRI), have deliberately channeled these significant sums of money into Mexico for one purpose: to sponsor the physical disintegration of the Mexican nation-state, by financing the narco-terrorist groups and their support networks committed to this goal.

The NED’s plan to dismember nation-states is today the *policy* of a dominant faction within the permanent bureaucracy at the U.S. State Department, carried out by such individuals as Luigi Einaudi, a longtime student of British geopolitics, as well as by agents of the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), the Wall Street-linked think-tank, who, from positions inside and outside government, shape policy toward Ibero-America. This not only includes backing for separatist forces, but also the demand that governments strictly adhere to the nation-wrecking free-market policies espoused by the International Monetary Fund and the international banking community. Former Dialogue president Richard Feinberg, who was dumped in 1996 from his position as an adviser on Latin American affairs at the National Security Council, said so explicitly, at a Brookings Institution event on June 18 in Washington. Reiterating comments he first made in early 1994, Feinberg crowed that Mexico’s EZLN “is alive today” thanks to the North American

Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), pressure from which forced the Zedillo government to back off from a military response to the narco-terrorists.

EIR’s ongoing investigation shows that during 1992-96, some \$2.75 million has been funneled into a tightly knit group of less than a dozen “human rights” and “pro-democracy” non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose leadership rosters overlap with, and are made up of, luminaries of the São Paulo Forum’s Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and other support networks for the narco-terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in the country. Nor could Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and his PRD have won in the July 6 elections without the enormous NED funds they, and their organizational offshoots, have received in recent years.

No friends of President Clinton

How is it possible that the NED, an ostensible arm of the U.S. government, is backing the EZLN and Cárdenas’s PRD, when these actions fly in the face of President Clinton’s own policy of collaboration and friendship with the Zedillo government, made clear during his recent, highly successful state visit to Mexico?

Part of the answer is provided by NED Chairman John Brademas, who wrote in the Chairman’s Message to the 1996 annual NED report, “Because the Endowment is a small non-governmental organization, it does not operate under the constraints of Federal institutions that must (and should) serve U.S. diplomatic interests. Moreover, NED grants are made to private, grassroots organizations, not to governments.” But that is just a small part of the explanation. In reality, the NED is a hot-bed of anti-Clinton and anti-American insurgency, and it has been so since its formal creation, through the National Endowment for Democracy Act, in November 1983. In Mexico, as in every other theater where the NED is active, the Endowment is far more closely aligned with British, than American policy interests.

NED was the brainchild of Samuel Huntington, who today is a leading policy adversary of the Clinton administration, whose “clash of civilizations” strategem has been publicly and repeatedly denounced by senior Clinton administration officials. Huntington first proposed a private institute “for the strengthening of democratic institutions” in a book-length study, *Crisis of Democracy*, that he presented at the May 31, 1975 Trilateral Commission meeting in Kyoto, Japan. Huntington argued that the transition to a post-industrial world would bring about severe economic dislocations, and that a privately controlled covert action capability would be needed to keep up the pretense of democracy, while imposing often brutal austerity and repression of freedom.

This has been the mission of the NED since it first opened for business in late 1983. A review of its key personnel reinforces that point. Hardly anywhere else in America can one find the concentration of avowed enemies of President Clinton that one encounters in the NED.

The president of the NED, from its inception, has been

Carl Gershman, a longtime employee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), an aide to Henry Kissinger on the Central America Commission, and a member of Leo Cherne's International Rescue Committee. Gershman immediately brought in another ADL employee, David Lowe, to serve as his Director of Government Relations. Both have held those posts for the past 14 years.

Other leading NED operatives include:

Fred Ikle, who served as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy in both Reagan administrations, and who was a prime suspect in the "Mr. X" probe of the Soviet-Israeli spy ring that deployed Jonathan Jay Pollard;

Thomas Kean, George Bush's Secretary of Education, a director of the World Wildlife Fund, and a former governor of New Jersey;

Matthew F. McHugh, former U.S. Representative, and now counselor to the president of the World Bank;

Samuel Huntington;

Francis Fukuyama, former State Department analyst and author of the absurd "end of history" dogma;

Seymour Martin Lipset, leading neo-conservative and collaborator of Huntington in the original Trilateral Commission study calling for a "Project Democracy";

Joshua Muravchik, another leading social democrat, deeply involved in the George Bush-Oliver North Iran-Contra fiasco;

Condoleezza Rice, George Bush's National Security Council Russia desk officer;

Bernard Lewis, the leading Oxford "Arabist" and author of the Carter administration's disastrous "arc of crisis" policy that helped install Ayatollah Khomeini in power in Iran;

Peter Hakim, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, which advocates drug legalization throughout the hemisphere;

Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Jr., radical free market Republican Party Presidential primary candidate and publisher of *Forbes* magazine;

John Brademas, chairman of the NED, former governor of the New York Federal Reserve, director of the Rockefeller Foundation, and member of the Trilateral Commission.

Documentation

Where the money goes

Among the more important groups funded by the National Endowment for Democracy are:

Civic Alliance: It received \$444,000 to promote "election monitoring and observation." It was set up in April 1994 as an umbrella group for most of the pro-Zapatista non-govern-

mental organizations (NGOs) in Mexico, among them the Citizens Movement for Democracy, Council for Democracy, Convergence of Civil Organizations for Democracy, the Arturo Rosenblueth Foundation, the Mexican Academy for Human Rights, and the National Accord for Democracy. In January 1997, the Alliance became a national political association.

The Alliance's top leaders are Sergio Aguayo and Emilio Alvarez Icaza, who are also leaders of several other human rights organizations, as indicated below.

In August 1995, after President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the arrest of the Zapatista National Liberation Army's "Subcommander Marcos," the Alliance organized a national referendum on whether the EZLN should be recognized as a national political force. This laid the groundwork for the subsequent creation of the Zapatistas' own political front, the Zapatista National Liberation Front (FZLN). Through its member group, the National Center for Social Communication (Cencos), the Alliance ran the "Caravan of Caravans," which is an important vehicle for providing the EZLN in Chiapas with food, medicine, and other supplies. José Alvarez Icaza, Emilio's brother, is the director of Cencos.

In May 1995, the Alliance received an NED award for its efforts in "democratizing the Mexican political process."

On June 1, 1997, the pro-terrorist daily *La Jornada* reported that the Civic Alliance had demanded that the military withdraw from parts of the southeastern state of Chiapas, the EZLN's home base, charging that the Army was "intimidating" the population and paving the way for vote fraud in the July 6 elections. The military's intimidation allegedly consisted of visiting areas where the opposition parties are strong. In a Mexico City press conference, Alliance leaders Sergio Aguayo and José Alvarez Icaza announced that they had identified no fewer than 70 such "high-risk" districts in the country, where fair elections were in danger, and vowed to mobilize 12,000 people to these areas to protect the vote. These "high-risk" districts were primarily in the areas of greatest narco-terrorist activity, of both the EZLN and the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca.

Convergence of Civil Organizations for Democracy: It received \$156,000 (1992). A member of the Civic Alliance, Convergence is also an umbrella organization in its own right, whose member groups include: the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, Agustín Pro-Human Rights Center, the National Center for Social Communication, the Mexican Academy for Human Rights, the Association of Democratic Lawyers, and the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights.

The leaders of Convergence's member groups overlap those of the Civic Alliance, and include:

Bishop Samuel Ruíz, president of the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Center, who is considered to be the EZLN's real commander. He serves on the boards of numerous other human rights organizations, and set up the National Intermediation Commission (CONAI), to negotiate with the EZLN. He

is the country's foremost proponent of separatism, thinly disguised in his call for an "autochthonous," indigenous church.

Father David Fernández, S.J., president of the Agustín Pro-Human Rights Center. His open defense and promotion of terrorist groups earned him an award last year from George Soros's Human Rights Watch/Americas. He has played a leading role in slandering Lyndon LaRouche and the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), LaRouche's co-thinkers in Ibero-America, and has been courted and defended by former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico James Jones.

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, of the Mexican Academy of Human Rights, founded in 1984, is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, and a proponent of indigenous separatism through his participation on the Inter-American Development Bank's Indigenous Fund.

Sergio Aguayo and Emilio Alvarez Icaza of the Civic Alliance also help run other Convergence member organizations.

Mariclaire Acosta, an Inter-American Dialogue member who works with Convergence, runs the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (see below).

Miguel Concha Malo, a key backer of Samuel Ruiz's schismatic tendency within the Catholic Church, is a member of the Mexican Academy of Human Rights, the Council for Democracy, Fray Francisco de Vitoria Human Rights Center, and a superior of the Dominican Order of Preachers.

Council for Democracy: It received \$469,000 for work on "political reform" and "nationwide parallel vote tabulation."

Its president is PAN leader Julio Faesler, who also runs the Mexican Academy for Human Rights. The Council's 1994 directors included Jorge Castañeda, a top adviser to the PRD's Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, and a mouthpiece for the EZLN, for the imposition of a British-style parliamentary system in Mexico, and for the breakup of the country; Mariclaire Acosta, an Inter-American Dialogue member who serves on the PRD executive committee, and who was Amnesty International's Mexico representative in the 1970s; Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, PRD senator and career LaRouche-hater; and Sergio Aguayo, of the Civic Alliance. The roster of the Council's directors is virtually interchangeable with that of the Citizens' Movement for Democracy (see below).

Citizens' Movement for Democracy: It received \$126,000 for "civic education campaigns." Its president is Graco Ramírez Garrido Abreu. Another of its leaders, Luis Nava Calvillo, served in 1995 as part of the EZLN's Chiapas Electoral Tribunal, along with Mariclaire Acosta and EZLN adviser Gustavo Esteva. Calvillo belongs to the Civic Alliance.

The organization's 1992 national directors included: "Commander" Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas (Chiapas), and his secretary, Miguel Alvarez; Gonzalo Ituarte, then secretary of the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center; Jorge Castañeda; Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, former PRD congressman, and author of the chapter

on Mexico in a 1990 anti-military, State Department-funded book, *The Military and Democracy: The Future of Civil-Military Relations in Latin America* (better known as the "Bush Manual"). Aguilar is the author of the proposal that the EZLN negotiate directly with Congress, rather than with the Executive branch, and to reform the national Constitution to promote "indigenous autonomy," i.e., separatism; Ana Lilia Cepeda, PRD congresswoman and founder of Women in Struggle for Democracy; Carlos Heredia and Victor Quintana, both of the People's Team, which advises the EZLN on Indian autonomy and development. In 1994 and 1995, Barbara Pillsbury, of the Minnesota-based Pillsbury family, worked out of the People's Team offices to translate messages from the EZLN's "Marcos" and place them on the Internet.

Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights: It received \$195,000 between 1993 and 1997, for "victims of human rights violations," the study of "patterns of abuse, torture, forced disappearances," and for the "dissemination of this information to other national and international organizations."

Founded and run by Mariclaire Acosta, the "mother" of all of Mexico's leading human rights groups. A member of the Inter-American Dialogue, she works intimately with Samuel Ruiz's Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, and with the Jesuit-run Agustín Pro-Human Rights Center. She serves on the PRD's executive committee, belongs to Convergence, the Mexican Action Network Against Free Trade, and All Rights for All, the latter among the 200 organizations invited by the EZLN to participate in a 1995 conference in Chiapas. She is the president of the PRD's human rights commission, a participant in the Chiapas Electoral Tribunal, the EZLN's National Democratic Convention, and a coordinator of the National Network of Civil Organizations for Human Rights, together with Father David Fernández of the Agustín Pro-Human Rights Center, and Samuel Ruiz. She serves on the Mexican Academy for Human Rights, along with Ruiz, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, and Sergio Aguayo of Civic Alliance.

Acosta's activities are directed particularly against the Mexican Armed Forces. She presented the case of Army "dissident" Gen. José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), alleging that Gallardo's human rights had been violated by the Army. In jail on corruption charges, Gallardo has become a *cause célèbre* for anti-military "Bush Manual" factions who are using it as a vehicle for undermining the Armed Forces and subjecting Mexico to supranational oversight through the IACHR.

Acosta claims that only 18% of the budget for the Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights comes from the NED. The rest comes from the Dutch government's Nederolandse organisatie vor Internationale (NOVIB); Ontwikkelings Samenwerking; the Canadian Auto Workers; and the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development.