

## Dateline Mexico by Carlos Cota Meza

### Samuel Ruiz caught with his cassock up

*A simple dose of the truth about the "Chiapas conflict" has sent the Zapatista terrorists into hysterics.*

**G**uadalajara Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez, with his characteristic pungency, recommended on March 6 that Bishop Samuel Ruiz, the true political commander of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas, terminate his role in the Chiapas peace negotiations, in order to facilitate the talks. "Only the government and insurgents [should] negotiate. The fewer negotiators, the more things get done," he said.

The very next day, a spokesman for the Mexican Bishops Conference (CEM), Bishop Onésimo Cepeda, trying to color things in Ruiz's favor, declared that it was up to the bishop himself "to judge if his mission as collaborator in solving the conflict is over." However, the CEM spokesman had to admit that the expulsion of foreign priests who are collaborators of Ruiz "has not damaged church-state relations." It is a known fact that elements inside the Vatican would like to halt Ruiz's provocative activities.

The public debate over the Chiapas conflict has grown increasingly intense, and is rapidly redefining political camps.

The National Action Party (PAN) accused the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, of being "clearly interested in seeing the conflict remain unresolved until the year 2000, so that afterwards a candidate of hope and peace can appear." The PRD joined with the Zapatistas' chieftain "Marcos," to lyingly accuse the government of preparing a "military solution" to the conflict. Arturo Nuñez, the leader in the Chamber of Deputies of the ruling

Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI), hit the nail on the head, when he charged that the PRD "frequently assumes the political expression of the EZLN, or stated another way, the EZLN is the armed expression of the PRD."

The cause of all this commotion is a statement issued by Government Minister Francisco Labastida Ochoa on March 1, titled "Enough Already!" It was issued to the political parties in the Chamber of Deputies, which in turn have their representatives on the Pacification and Settlement Commission (Cocopa). Through Labastida, the government proposed to Cocopa a joint elaboration of constitutional reforms that exclude the EZLN's demands for territorial division.

The government's four basic points have been summarized in the form of questions to the EZLN that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no": 1) Do you or do you not agree to respect the three levels of government: Federal, state, and municipal? 2) Do you or do you not agree that Indian habits and customs should evolve within the municipal environment, without fracturing existing municipalities? 3) Do you or do you not agree that communal Indian property should not imply abolition of private property, community property, or national property? 4) Do you or do you not agree that "Indian groups" which seek to be owners of mass media, should respect the Law of Radio and Television?

This questionnaire drove the Zapatistas mad. Several newspapers have reported that "Marcos" counter-

attacked by ordered acts of provocation in various parts of Chiapas, using Indian contingents headed by some 15 foreigners, who carry out "revolutionary expropriations" or collect "war taxes" from other Indian communities.

But it is Samuel Ruiz himself, and his immediate cohorts, who are most desperate.

Michel Chanteau, the French priest recently expelled from Mexico by the Zedillo government because of his "unauthorized activities" in Chiapas, has initiated a propaganda campaign from Paris warning that "a new attack" against Ruiz is being planned. According to Chanteau, "someone" told him that there is already "someone trained to carry out" the attack. Given the perversity of the EZLN and its foreign fellow-travellers, one cannot overlook the possibility that they might carry out an attack on themselves, to then blame the government for the deed.

In contrast to the French priest's vague charges, the Mexican government is known to have expelled Chanteau for carrying out overt political activities in the EZLN's favor, which is explicitly forbidden by the Mexican Constitution, in addition to practicing "a religion alien to Catholicism."

This news service has extensively documented the pagan, Satanic nature of Samuel Ruiz's brand of religion, as well as the fact that he is openly organizing in favor of a schismatic, indigenous "autochthonous church" within Catholicism.

Religion aside, in San Pedro Chenalhó, Chiapas, where Ruiz's French pal Chanteau ran his parish, he was affectionately known as "Papa Chanto," because he allegedly slept with various Indian women and had numerous children with them. According to various reports, Chanteau was known throughout the area as the "Impregnating Priest."