
Mexico

Wall Street to Fox: 'Time To Play Dirty'

by Rubén Cota Meza

While the utopian faction inside the Bush Administration is orchestrating a drive for war in the Middle East, global financial centers are increasing pressure on Mexican President Vicente Fox to decide, once and for all, to "play dirty" against the unions and sections of the PRI opposition party that are blocking the surrender of Mexico's energy resources—so necessary to the strategy of a single imperial superpower.

The main target, at the moment, is the union of Petroleos de México (Pemex) oil workers, whose leaders have been accused of corruption, as well as those leaders in the Mexican Senate and House who are today threatened with being stripped of their posts, and then dragged before the courts.

The most visible pressures are coming from the *Financial Times*, the London-based mouthpiece of the international financial oligarchy, and from the U.S. State Department. In the shadows, operating from the Los Pinos Presidential residence, one finds Dick Morris, that slimy bag of dirty tricks deployed out of the offices of Wall Street lawyers and the New York financial mafia, who passes himself off as Fox's political "strategic adviser."

Operation 'Dirty Hands'

In a Sept. 23 article signed by Sara Silver and Richard Lapper, the *Financial Times* describes Fox as "proud of his successes" in bringing about a peaceful political transition, after seizing the Presidency from the PRI (which ruled the country for decades); of his economic team, which has brought inflation and interest rates to historically low levels; and of "shielding" Mexico from the storms that are whipping South America. However, complains the *Times*, Fox has proven "incapable or unwilling to engage in the kind of dirty politics required" to impose privatization of the energy sector, a drastic "tax reform," the dismantling of the unions and the PRI, and so forth. Fox appears determined to bring about the privatization of the electricity sector and to face down the powerful Pemex union, admits the *Times*, "which could be the defining issue for his government." However, "the big question is whether Mr. Fox will prove himself equally successful in the harder, dirtier, and potentially treasonous terrain, that is the future of Mexican party politics."

This is not the first time that the bankers' have scolded Fox for not pushing through the "reform" program for which he was installed in power. Last January, the *Wall Street Jour-*

nal complained that, with his campaign promises, Fox "personified the new Mexico," but "the old Mexico is still not in any danger." Showing its impatience over Fox's failures on energy privatization and tax reform, the *Journal* demanded that Fox "spend some of his political capital."

To make sure that Fox's hand won't tremble, the oligarchy has placed one of its leading dirty tricks operatives inside the first circles of the Mexican Presidency, "Dirty Dick" Morris.

Salvador García Soto, director of the newspaper *La Crónica de Hoy*, wrote on July 28 that "every 15 days," Dick Morris arrives at Los Pinos to give classes to a select group of Fox's closest collaborators, for the purpose of plotting strategy for the 2003 elections. García Soto credits Morris for the Fox government's "strategy of polarization"—confrontation with the PRI and dredging up the errors and corruption of past regimes—and with the idea that, "with a lot of Fox and a little PAN," the current regime could take the majority of the Chamber of Deputies in 2003. The current Congress, with important nationalist minorities from the PRI and PRD, has proven a significant obstacle to Wall Street's plans.

The PRI and the oil workers union, in late September, capitulated to Morris' strategy by abandoning their strike plans, rather than be portrayed as villains who would have held the nation hostage to preserve their privileges. The PAN and PRD will nonetheless strip the oil workers' leaders of their parliamentary immunity as Congressmen, and send them to jail for corruption, but not before a lengthy trial designed to serve as electoral campaign propaganda against the PRI.

Order for 'Dirty War' Comes Down

The oil worker leaders today are paying for their own betrayal of union leader Joaquín "La Quina" Hernández Galicia, who was jailed in 1988 by then-President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, precisely for blocking plans to privatize the country's energy sectors. Just as the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement warned in the 2000 elections, Fox is "the terminal phase of Salinismo."

The order to proceed with a "dirty war," designed to overturn national resistance to the surrender of the nation's energy resources, came directly from the Bush Administration in Washington, in the form of "support" for President Fox's war against corruption. On Sept. 25, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher "surprisingly" announced that the Bush government "places itself firmly behind the key objectives of the Fox government." Boucher cynically adds, "We don't take a political position" vis-à-vis the oil workers strike, but "we take a strong position" on corruption, and "approve the steps the Mexican government has adopted against it."

With Bush's big stick in hand, Fox and his "advisers"—headed by "Dirty Dick" Morris—will proceed to dismantle union resistance to privatization of not just the oil sector, but all the other sectors of the economy demanded by the financial elites. Next in the crosshairs are the union of the Mexican Institute of Social Security and the Mexican Union of Electrical Workers.