

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### PAN runs into trouble in Sonora

*What looked like a national stronghold a month ago is suddenly shaky for the fascist opposition party.*

Just two months ago, the partisans of the National Action Party (PAN) were jubilant across the country. In the elections of July 4, the fascist "rightwing" party had polled over 15 percent for President, more than double any other opposition party to the ruling PRI. More, it had extended its grip on the tier of northern states bordering the United States, especially in Sonora.

According to plans of the PAN obtained by *EIR* at the time, the party planned a series of violent disruptions and other provocations along the northern border that would parallel the pressure on the southern border caused by the upheavals in Guatemala and the rest of Central America.

Sonora was the linchpin of this strategy, a state in which unofficial estimates placed the PAN as the majority party on the local level. Official totals gave the PAN control of two border towns, San Luis Río Colorado and Agua Prieta, and the state capital of Hermosillo. In addition, the PAN honcho for the state, Adalberto Rosas, refused to give up PAN control of the southern center of Ciudad Obregón, despite an election vote favoring the PRI.

Now, the party's fortunes are reversed. The most important factor in the ebbing is President López Portillo's immensely popular bank nationalization measures of Sept. 1. This has increased the government's prestige and weakened the pro-speculation groups within the PRI which had se-

cretely or not-so-secretly been aiding the rise of the PAN, particularly in Hermosillo.

The PAN was also weakened by an effective campaign by the third-strongest party in the state, the Mexican Labor Party (PLM), to unmask the PAN party's pretensions to represent a Catholic, "pro-business" current. The PLM, which represents a strata of business, labor, and farmer groups oriented to high technology development, showed that the PAN is basically feudalistic in orientation, on the model of the fascist European "solidarist" parties it is linked to, and opposed to fundamental tenets of apostolic Christianity.

A high-point in the resurgence of the forces grouped around the progressive PRI governor of the state, Samuel Ocaña, was a 25,000 person rally to support the bank nationalization held in Ciudad Obregón on Sept. 12.

Ocaña gave the keynote speech to this extraordinary mobilization in a town which had been controlled by the PAN for the last three years. The next day the outgoing PAN Mayor Rosas finally ended his defiance of the state government and turned over the local voting records he had sequestered illegally.

In Hermosillo, although the State Congress certified Casimiro Navarro of the PAN as the new Mayor, it passed a censure motion against him for "lack of political maturity and citizenship." The reference was to PLM charges of

his wrong-doing when he sought refuge in the U.S. consulate, which had otherwise provided support for his campaign, the day of the voting. The State Congress, after listening to a full reading of PLM charges against the PAN, also voted to pass the matter of revoking Navarro's citizenship up to national authorities.

The PAN has a large fascist youth gang apparatus to fall back on. The core group is called the Micos, recruited out of degenerate student layers and widely reputed to be coordinated out of the U.S. consulate. Some 800-1,000 strong, the Micos are reported to be receiving paramilitary training in two sites along the coast of Hermosillo, Cruz Gálvez and La Biznaga; a camp north of Hermosillo called El Tojungo; and the Palo Verde district of Hermosillo proper. Sources identify a shocktroop organizer from Guadalajara, "Adrian," as the chief of the Camps.

Micos threatened that "there would be violence," if the PAN were not confirmed in its control of the Hermosillo mayorship. "We are prepared for any eventuality," stated one representative of the thug group.

In the town of Bacum, outside Ciudad Obregón, PAN-linked youth carried out a physical attack on the PRI mayor's office Sept. 14.

However, the shocktroops operation has been hit by damaging revelations made by two armed hitmen picked up when stalking PLM organizers in Hermosillo. One confessed that he had been working as a guard for the U.S. Consul in Hermosillo, in communication with next door neighbor PRI Mayor, Alicia Arellano, who had ordered her machine to help the PAN in the last elections. The other admitted under questioning that he was working on the staff of incoming PAN Mayor Casimiro Navarro.