

State Department's PAN takes a huge loss

by Timothy Rush

In one of the most stunning turnarounds in recent Mexican political history, Mexico's ruling party, the PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) soundly defeated the fascist, separatist National Action Party (PAN) in the Sept. 4 elections in Baja California Norte. As late as early August, polls were giving the PAN anywhere from 60 to 75 percent support.

According to figures released Sept. 8 by a representative of the PRI, Sen. Norberto Mora Plancarte, the PRI won the governorship by a two to one margin over the votes for the PAN and other parties. Moreover, the PRI won the municipal presidencies in at least three of the four prominent Baja California municipalities, including the state capital, Mexicali. The official returns will be available Sept. 11.

The PAN is contesting the election results and claiming victory, but sources in the PAN are privately acknowledging defeat. PAN supporters in U.S. State Department circles said that if the PAN got even 20 percent, it was a "victory."

A decisive role in defeating the PAN was played by the Mexican Labor Party (PLM), co-thinkers of the U.S. National Democratic Policy Committee, whose advisory board is headed by Lyndon H. LaRouche. Revelations by the PLM and by NDPC leader William Wertz in California of the PAN's connections to the drug- and weapons-running operations of the Hollywood mafia, and to the U.S. Malthusian faction in the U.S. State Department and the FBI, broke into the Mexican press and are now before the government.

When, in a frenzy about the PLM and NDPC denunciations, the PAN lodged a formal protest with the state electoral commission on Sept. 3, demanding that an official investigation be taken up of a PLM-paid advertisement which "attacked the PAN and accused it of intending to incite residents of Baja California to violence," the electoral commission, formed by representatives from the registered parties and the government, voted to recommend that the state congress revoke the PAN's registration as a legal party, due to a series of PAN electoral abuses. Only two parties of the "opposite" extreme, the Partido Socialista Unificado de México (PSUM) and the Fourth International terrorist group called the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT) backed the PAN by abstaining from the vote.

The party of the IMF and the mafia

The PAN was attempting to take advantage of popular discontent with the austerity program imposed on Mexico by the International Monetary Fund—policies the PRI government has been enforcing—to win the elections. But, as the

PLM demonstrated repeatedly, the PAN not only backs the IMF policies itself, but is willing to barter Mexico's republican institutions and sovereignty to please the creditors.

The PAN was built up as the "institutional alternative" to the PRI in northern Mexico by the drug and weapons-runners of the Hollywood mafia who wanted to protect their border operations from crackdown on the drug trade by the Mexican government (see *EIR*, Sept. 6). But its associated political role is as a force that can introduce a process of broader institutional unraveling that would knock out the United States' natural partners in the Mexican elite committed to sovereign economic growth.

The victory is thus also a victory for the real interests of the United States, which would be hurt more than any other nation by "Iranization" on its doorstep.

The 'Juárez Brigade'

The PLM sent organizers, called the Juárez Brigade after Mexico's president Benito Juárez, the great defender of the sovereignty of the Mexican republic in the mid-19th century, to Baja in early August after a series of PAN victories at the local level that were threatening to take the entire north of the country out of central government control.

Particularly effective was the PLM's use of history—a history more alive to the average Mexican than national histories are in most other countries. The PLM counterposed PAN candidate Alfredo Arenas's 1982 proposal to "pay off" Mexico's \$85 billion foreign debt by giving away Baja California to Mexico's creditors, to Juárez's statements calling Baja, along with the other border states, the guardians of Mexico's territorial integrity.

From north of the border

From the U.S., the NDPC blew the whistle on U.S. State Department and FBI involvement in building up the PAN. Charges made to the press by California NDPC leader Will Wertz were covered by press on both sides of the border, including Mexico City's leading newspapers *Excelsior* and *El Dia*. Wertz called on the Reagan administration to do everything possible to prevent any violation of Mexico's national sovereignty around Baja's elections.

The PAN never attempted to refute the charges, but instead tried to discredit the NDPC as "only a front for the Mexican Foreign Relations Ministry," a ludicrous charge which carried little weight in the state.

El Nacional's article Sept 7 article noted that "the Na-

tional Democratic Policy Committee of California charged, in the *The Valley Press* [of *El Centro*], that the FBI and the State Department had intervened in the Baja elections. . . . The charge, which [also] appeared in *Novedades de Baja California*, mentions the intervention of Henry Kissinger, through whom the members of the PAN are receiving the support of government sectors in the neighboring country."

Faced with the "clearly foreseeable defeat" of the PAN, yet another State Department-linked entity, the Instituto Mexicano de Opinión Pública (IMOP), published a desperation poll claiming the PAN would win the election with 50 percent of the vote. IMOP is run by a notorious proto-terrorist "greenie" Adip Sabag, a leader of the now legally defunct Partido Socialdemócrata Mexicano (PSD), which was established with the help of State Department operative Charles

Henry Lee.

The PAN has lost little time, once its defeat was imminent, to raise the threat of violence. The secretary-general of the party, Jesús González Schmall, upon being informed that his party may lose its registration in the state, declared that in that case the party "will take power with true civic insurgency."

José Pérez Stuart, a pro-PAN columnist in *Excelsior*, made public the argument that State Department-linked operatives have been circulating through U.S. and other international circles in recent weeks: "The elections at the state level are the escape valve for the social pressure that the [economic] crisis is provoking. . . . If that release for popular dissatisfaction is closed off, [it will] open a chapter in the crisis not seen up to now."

Mexican Congress launches debate over NDPC's charges

The charges of the National Democratic Policy Committee that the PAN party of Mexico was receiving help from the U.S. State Department and the FBI were raised on the floor of the national congress of Mexico Sept. 8. The debate, and front-page press coverage in all major Mexican press the next day, placed the issue at the center of national attention. The PAN responded with wild attacks on Lyndon LaRouche, the advisory board chairman of the NDPC, as a "multi-millionaire who is determined to become the first socialist [sic] president of the United States."

In response to press queries, the chief of the PRI majority in the Senate (equivalent to Senate majority leader in the United States), Miguel González Avelar, stated that "even the possibility that some political party is thinking of accepting the help and aid of a foreign government or organization must be drastically criticized and condemned." Congressional leaders of five parties other than the PAN and the PRI called for the Interior Ministry to carry out a full investigation of the charges.

The PAN's only defenders were an "opposite" faction of left-Jesuit forces, based in the newspaper *Unomasuno* and part of the Unified Socialist Party (PSUM) apparatus.

The new round of controversy over the NDPC charges was provoked by a front page interview with NDPC West Coast Coordinator Will Wertz, appearing in the leading daily *Excelsior* Sept. 8. Excerpts of the interview follow:

"William Wertz, coordinator of the Committee for the West of the United States, stated in a press conference that the official U.S. aid [to the PAN] is provided through the

State Department and the Justice Department. This last, is through the FBI, which is the federal judicial police of the United States.

Wertz said that "the U.S. help to the electoral campaigns of the PAN can be traced back for several months, since the electoral campaign of this political group in Sonora. . . . The PAN won the municipal elections in Hermosillo, [the capital of Sonora] with the help of the U.S. embassy, and the result is that the FBI has assigned a number of its agents to the mayor's office in Hermosillo, providing various forms of logistical support."

"The help," according to Wertz, "consists principally in promoting the credibility of the PAN, [but] also, other kinds of aid."

Wertz indicated that "the objective of the U.S. government is to use the PAN as a means to prevent the Mexican government from joining with other Latin American countries, which are trying to renegotiate the debt and integrate their economies."

The National Democratic Policy Committee has its headquarters in Washington, and its advisory commission is headed by Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche was one of the candidates for the nomination of the Democratic Party for president in 1980. In addition, LaRouche represents the conservative wing of the Democratic Party.

According to members of this wing, LaRouche and the committee which he heads have maintained close relations with Mexico for many years, and has traditionally supported the policies of the Mexican government in Central America, in monetary questions, immigration, and others.

In fact, they say, LaRouche had an audience recently with the president. LaRouche is also the promotor of "Operation Juárez," which, they report, has the goal of creating just and respectful relations between the United States and Mexico, following the model of the alliance between Benito Juárez and Abraham Lincoln last century.