

A case in point: Mexico's 'PANSUM'

Moscow's hand in laying the groundwork for the current insurgency against the Mexican state, should provide fair warning to those who look only for "communists" as the instruments of Soviet warfare against the Western Hemisphere.

On Sept. 5, 400-plus representatives of opposition parties and civic action associations gathered in Mexico City for a National Forum on Effective Suffrage. The Forum marked the founding of a national opposition front, committed to a national "mobilization of the people," through coordinated "non-violent civil disobedience" actions against the government. Four principal parties make up the opposition front: the pro-Hitler "free-enterprise" National Action Party (PAN), the Trotskyite Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), left-wing greenies in the Mexican Workers Party (PMT), and the Communist Party's Mexican Unified Socialist Party (PSUM).

PSUM leader Pablo Gómez described the meeting as the "convergence in democratic commitment, of all the political forces of the country." Communist Party leader Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo hailed the Forum as "a unique and unprecedented meeting," and called for all to put aside personal differences and work together for their well-defined objectives. PAN leaders were equally happy. "We agree on the struggle for democracy," the PAN's Bernardo Batiz announced afterwards. PAN President Jesús González Schmall promised that the new alliance will "recover the people's sovereignty."

The Democratic Forum opens a new phase in irregular warfare against the Mexican state by the alliance which has become known as the "PANSUM." For the past three months, the coalition began the battle-training of its cadre, in the northern state of Chihuahua. Since the July 7 elections in that state, whose results the "PANSUM" rejects as fraudulent, PANSUM activists rioted, seized border crosspoints between the United States and Mexico, organized "sit-ins" of state and local government buildings and offices, and carried out hunger strikes, promising to escalate civic disruptions, until they are handed political power in the north.

Chihuahua provided a statewide test of PANSUM's capabilities in action. "I saw the PMT, PSUM, and the PAN united in its commitment to be respected by an abusive authority," wrote the PAN candidate for governor in the state of Sinaloa, Manuel Clouthier, in the daily *El Universal* on Aug. 7, after a 15-day visit to Chihuahua. The agreements there, he told PAN members at a Culiacán rally Aug. 11, set the basis for a "national front. . . . I, too, had the honor of

signing, committing us to struggle so that democracy is installed in Mexico."

Clouthier epitomizes the Nazi-communists leading the PANSUM strike force. One of the biggest "latifundistas" of Sinaloa, a state deeply corrupted by drug-traffic, Clouthier has yet to explain the several tons of marijuana discovered when police raided one of his warehouses in Sinaloa in 1979.

Friends in Moscow . . . and Washington

From the outset, Moscow has kept close ties to the developing insurgency. In 1977, *America Latina* printed an article by PAN leader Manuel González Hinojosa, in which he proposed that "independent" political forces in Mexico join together. The PAN, he told Soviet readers, is a party of "conservatives, neo-liberals, moderate socialists, some not-so-moderate socialists," and "remnants of synarchism." González Hinojosa did not mention that Soviet-PAN ties extend back to the 1920s, when Manuel Gómez Morín, who later founded the PAN, was the lawyer for the Soviet embassy in Mexico!

The first public emergence of the PANSUM alliance—a joint rally of PANistas and PSUM members in Sinaloa—came only two weeks after PSUM leader Pablo Gómez returned from consultations in the Soviet Union in November 1983.

In 1985, a detailed history of the PAN's links to the Soviets was published in the exposé, *The PAN, Moscow's Terrorists in Mexico*, written by the Mexican Labor Party, and distributed in Mexico and Washington, D.C. The book warned Mexican and U.S. policymakers that the PANSUM alliance would not stop until massive violence and social upheaval destroyed the Mexican political system and threatened the security of the United States.

Soviet direction over the PANSUM continues. Shortly before the "Effective Suffrage" Forum, another PSUM delegation visited the Soviet Union. During their visit, billed as a "get acquainted with the U.S.S.R. Communist Party" trip, the PSUM members were briefed on the decisions taken at the 27th Party Congress, in meetings with the Supreme Soviet, the International Department of the Leningrad Communist Party, and officials of the Latvian Communist Party and government. The PSUM visit followed a tour of Mexico by a Soviet Communist Party delegation in July, invited by the PSUM. That delegation was led by Central Committee member B. K. Pugo, who also holds the post of First Secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, and is known to be KGB.

Yet, on Sept. 26, members of the PANSUM seeking U.S. aid were welcomed again in Washington. Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Affairs has a new report, hailing the Chihuahua events as a sign that PAN leaders now "advocat[e] a less legalistic, activist stance" in their campaign against the Mexican state. Ultimately, Moscow relies upon such U.S. support, to turn Ibero-America into "a continent in flames."