

Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

Cultural war on the Church

Pagans encysted within the government are trying to trigger a new version of the 1925-29 Cristero Wars.

On Feb. 3, a score of rifle-bearing police and members of the Public Works Department of the port of Acapulco, removed from its concrete pedestal a bronze statue of San Felipe de Jesús, the Mexican Jesuit missionary martyred in Nagasaki, Japan in 1597. Acapulco Bishop Msgr. Rafael Bello Ruiz immediately proclaimed that the Catholic Church "finds itself deeply injured." He warned that such an act could cause "great disillusionment among the Catholic people," because the government "neither respects their opinions, their freedom, nor their most sacred feelings, which are religious ones."

It was an incident similar to that of Feb. 3 which, in 1925, detonated the religious war known as "the Cristero Rebellion," which lasted until 1929 and in which more than 30,000 Mexicans died. This religious war was caused by the political machine of then-President Plutarco Elías Calles (1924-28), who tried to exterminate the Catholic tradition and institutions of Mexico because they functioned as the principal obstacle to imposition of a fascist regime styled on the Italian model of that time.

Calles was a puppet of Teddy Roosevelt and the Morgan interests.

EIR has reported the Mexican Church's opposition to the murderous austerity program the present De la Madrid government has imposed on the country, the result of its debt negotiations with the House of Morgan and other creditors. The latest provo-

cations against Mexico's Catholics stem from precisely the political heirs of Calles, today headed by Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett Díaz and his deputy, Fernando Elías Calles.

The Acapulco incident was only the latest of a rash of anti-Catholic provocations that have occurred recently.

On Jan. 23, thousands of members of various Catholic groups gathered at the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico City, to protest an "art" exhibit that displayed the Virgin of Guadalupe—the image most venerated by Mexico's Catholic majority—with the face of Hollywood "whore" Marilyn Monroe. While the press tried to portray the demonstration as violent, in fact, there was no indication of any violent activity.

It is no accident that the pagan exhibit was authorized by, among others, the deputy secretary of culture of the Public Education Ministry, Martín Reyes Vayssade, who in 1961 was a leader of the Communist Party in Mexico City, and by 1983, was a national leader of the Bolshevik Communist Party, a pro-Chinese splinter group.

To add insult to injury, the pornographic display was held less than one kilometer from another exhibit on the Virgin of Guadalupe—sponsored by Catholic groups.

Museum of Modern Art director Jorge Alberto Manrique, accused the Catholic demonstrators of being "fascistoid groups," and demanded that

criminal charges be lodged against them. On Jan. 27, Mexico's House of Deputies issued a resolution condemning the demonstrators, a resolution backed by various Moscow-controlled parties and by the ruling PRI party. And on Jan. 28, hundreds of "intellectuals and artists" demanded "full application of the law" against the Catholics.

The majority of those same "intellectuals and artists" not surprisingly head up the "greenie" campaign against the opening of the Laguna Verde nuclear plant, and many are acknowledged homosexuals.

In yet another incident, the metropolitan police of Mexico City were deployed to guard the theater of the "Shakespeare Forum," to prevent confrontations between protesting Catholics and a group of lesbians going under the name of "Divas A.C." The "Divas A.C." put on a drama called *Concilio de Amor* (Council of Love), which is about "lesbians in heaven," and which portrays the Virgin Mary as a prostitute.

On Jan. 25, Mexican Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada, denounced this pagan offensive, stating that the museum's exhibit "offends the Catholic flock and Mexican nationalism," since it also presents insulting images of the national flag. "The artists are expressing their right to be creative? I am going to take your *mamacita* and I'm going to put a little pig's face on her and exhibit it. Would you like it? No? And I'm not violating any rights!"

On Jan. 26, Msgr. Genaro Alamilla, president of the Bishops' Commission for Social Communication, went to the heart of the matter. The museum presentation he said, is not art, because "it is at odds with beauty, which is harmony and morality." To be art, he added, it "must show beauty as an expression of truth."