

## PLM: Freedom for oil union leaders!

*The following statement was issued on Jan. 10 by the National Executive Committee of the Mexican Labor Party (PLM):*

The arrest of oil workers union leader Joaquín Hernández Galicia, together with other oil workers union leaders, was ordered by the usurer banks' Eastern Liberal Establishment controlled by the Scottish Rite freemasonry, which worships Satanism. Contrary to the charges made against Hernández Galicia, the motive for his arrest is clear and unequivocal: to kill him and thus privatize the state oil company Pemex for the benefit of the creditor banks. The country would thus be submitted to a dictatorship, permitting a looting of the nation worse than the combined dictatorships of Hapsburgs of the colonial era, and Porfirio Díaz.

The threats have been constant: In articles dated Sept. 27 and Oct. 5, 1988, the bankers' official mouthpiece, the *Wall Street Journal*, demanded that Hernández Galicia get the same treatment as Jimmy Hoffa, the U.S. Teamster leader who was kidnaped and murdered. His body was never found.

Previously, attempts were made against Emerico Villarreal, the oil workers leader from Poza Rica, Veracruz; more recently, Lenin Falcón, oil workers leader from Tabasco, was assassinated.

Together with these threats and assassination attempts, creditor proposals to privatize the entire Mexican state sector, particularly Pemex, have become more open and outrageous.

On Jan. 9, 24 hours prior to Hernández Galicia's jailing, national newspapers published an article by the nefarious Henry Kissinger, in which he proposes that U.S. President-elect George Bush take Mexico as a "test case." Kissinger says "it makes no sense that state capitalism continue to reign supreme south of the Rio Bravo . . . privatization, the free entry of capital flows and the reduction of government regulation, must be primary elements of such a program."

The new phase of the so-called "restructuring of Mexico's foreign debt," begun by Finance Minister Pedro Aspe, is directed toward the same end.

In a study allegedly prepared for Aspe, the economists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rudiger

Dornbush and Nobel Prize winner in economics Franco Modigliani, propose total privatization and Mexico's incorporation into a North American Common Market together with Canada and the United States.

His so-called "Interest Recycling Plan" proposes that interests on the foreign debt be paid in national currency and that these funds be used by creditors to "invest" in Mexico. The role of the Mexican government in this scheme would be to "guarantee a broad liberation of investment opportunities."

### **Debt moratorium: Hernández Galicia**

Contrary to these gigantic steps toward "privatization" of Pemex, Joaquín Hernández Galicia has systematically criticized a government policy that is more attentive to the interests of the country's creditors than to national needs.

In 1986, then-secretary general of the oil workers union Juan Sosa, who was also arrested with Hernández Galicia, told President De la Madrid: "If Pemex sinks, you will sink, we will all sink, Mexico will sink." Thus they criticized the absence of maintenance, upkeep, and equipment as well as the absence of a budget for the company.

In 1988, the oil workers union charged then-director of Pemex Mario Ramón Beteta and Isidoro Rodríguez Ruiz with corruption and with privatizing, by means of concessions, activities of Pemex that should, according to constitutional mandate, have been carried out by the state.

On Jan. 5, 1989, during the traditional New Year's greeting, as he visited Carlos Salinas de Gortari in the presidential residence "Los Pinos," Joaquín Hernández Galicia was clear, judicious, and forceful on the problem of the foreign debt: "Mexico must suspend payments on the foreign debt for one year. . . . The problem of the foreign debt has paralyzed internal investment in our country. We cannot grow if we continue diverting the internal budget to fulfill our foreign obligations. Mexico is becoming a moribund country that will soon die. . . . Mexico is trustworthy but it is not just that the entire budget be taken and that we be left unprotected."

In denouncing the government's actions against the oil workers, Salvador Barragán Camacho, secretary general of the oil workers union said: "Of course this is no present. This is no present for any Mexican."

The fact that the National Army was used to arbitrarily arrest Joaquín Hernández Galicia, who has shown himself to be the most lucid of the country's labor leaders, jeopardizes what the Mexican Revolution bequeathed us, endangers the National Constitution, and places the country on the brink of totalitarian dictatorship.

On the other hand, with all the risks that this implies, Carlos Salinas de Gortari is facing a historic conjuncture: Either he succumbs to creditors' pressures, or he supports the country's nationalist forces and all of Mexico's people to declare a moratorium on the debt.