

Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

Will the debt be paid with drugs?

The country is being taken over by organized crime as part of its integration into a North American Common Market.

The world's press trumpeted that the Jan. 10 military raid upon and jailing of the leadership of the Mexican Oil Workers' Union showed President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's dedication to "fighting corruption." The truth is quite the opposite.

Strong, patriotic institutions like the oil workers are being smashed in order to bring Mexico into a North American Common Market with the United States and Canada. Mexico's assigned roles are to serve as a slave-labor sweatshop, to provide its oil and food to a "Fortress America," and to be an open door for narcotics.

As soon as Mexico's strongest labor leaders, with the exception of jailed oil workers chief Joaquín Hernández Galicia (known as "La Quina"), crawled before the brutal power wielded by Salinas, the press announced that Pemex, the state oil company, would fire 40,000 of its 210,000 employees.

Economist Lorenzo Meyer of the Club of Rome's Colegio de Mexico boasted in *Excelsior* Jan. 26 that the labor movement was being liquidated in order to impose Nazi slave labor: "The dramatic arrest of La Quina and his closest aides should be seen not as a normal juridical act . . . but as a 100% political presidential decision covered by a thin veil of legality. . . . The neo-conservative economic model . . . is incompatible with the type of labor movement which today predominates. . . . To compete successfully on the international market, the new Mexican economy requires the kind of labor organization prevailing in most of the sweatshop industry in the north [of Mexico]; i.e., a non-un-

ionized labor force paid the minimum compatible with its survival. . . . The new unionism should be politically and economically weak."

Trade Secretary Jaime Serra Puche announced that Mexico would be integrated "by sectors" into the North American Common Market. At Davos, Switzerland Jan. 28, he said his government planned to open the border to imports and permit foreign ownership of its communications and transportation infrastructure.

The *New York Times* and the *Christian Science Monitor*, always quick to throw the "dictator" label against Ibero-American patriots, lauded what the former called "the Mexican army's rambo-style assault" on the oil workers.

Wall Street oracle Henry Kissinger stamped his approval on Mexico's new fascism in a commentary published in Madrid's *El Pais* Jan. 18. He said, "The United States and Latin America can be thankful the coming to power of President Carlos Salinas coincides with massive transformations profiled in the Hemisphere. No other Latin American leader so much shares the United States' preference for a market economy, private capital, and solutions [to the foreign debt crisis] by means of cooperation."

Kissinger concluded, "Mexico will be the model . . . [but] if political mastery does not prevail, there could be a slide toward populism, nationalism, and anti-Americanism."

Right after the leader of the oil workers was jailed, there were rumors here that the regime would try to prove that its real motive was "fighting corruption" by also cracking down on

stock market speculators, the "300 businessmen" up to their neck in Ivan Boesky-type insider trading swindles. Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo proclaimed that brokerages launder massive amounts of narcotics dollars and are "under investigation." However, not a single swindler has been disturbed by the law. On the contrary, Mexico is opening up to the money-laundry *par excellence*: gambling casinos.

The *Christian Science Monitor* Jan. 18 boosted such "tourism" as the only way "to rescue Mexico from economic ruin." It quoted Tourism Undersecretary Ezequiel Padilla, "No other source of foreign exchange—not even oil—has the dynamism and potential of tourism."

Padilla and his boss, Tourism Secretary Carlos Hank González, are the heirs of the Nazi spy rings in Mexico during the Second World War. As fully documented in the 1985 book *The PAN: Moscow's Terrorists in Mexico*, Ezequiel Padilla's father protected a big ring of spies and drug traffickers linked to Hollywood. As foreign minister from 1940 to 1946, Padilla, Sr. let Errol Flynn, Hilda Kruegger, Hermann Erben, and Axel Werner-Grenn use Mexico as a base for their anti-American activities.

Hank runs the Columbus Group in partnership with such financiers as Venezuela's Eduardo Cisneros, Peru's Manuel Ulloa, and Colombia's Alfonso López Michelsen) whose links with dirty-money networks were documented in *EIR's* book *Dope, Inc.* It is easy to see why Hank, in proposing Jan. 28 a "popular consultation" on reopening the casinos banned by nationalist President Lázaro Cárdenas in 1936, tagged his project "lovable craziness." Nor is it accidental that publications and journalists paid by Hank have campaigned since mid-1988 for the legalization of drugs.