

PRI wins Mexican elections; Cárdenas goes berserk

by Hugo López Ochoa

On Aug. 21, in the most-watched presidential elections in their history—with more than 1,000 national and foreign observers on hand to guarantee there would be no fraud—Mexican voters surprised the world by giving Ernesto Zedillo, the candidate of the ruling PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party), a smashing victory. With more than 88% of the polling places counted, Zedillo had well over 50% of the vote. His leftist rival Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, backed by the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), the electoral arm of the narco-terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), only received 17%. The conservative National Action Party's candidate Diego Fernández de Ceballos won 26% of the vote.

There is a poetic irony in the high voter turnout of 77%. In 1988, when Cárdenas cried "fraud" after the PRI's Carlos Salinas de Gortari won, only 48% of the electorate voted. This time, Cárdenas spent his campaign appealing to people to vote en masse to prevent vote fraud—and they went to the polls to defeat him by a wide margin.

Backfire effect

Cárdenas's rout means that 80% of Mexican voters rejected the violence and chaos pursued by the Zapatistas and their one-worldist friends who favor dismantling the nation-state. Before the election, the international press, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the United Nations, and the foreign observers claimed that the PRI would commit fraud, and that this would lead to an eruption of "post-election violence."

With the Anglophile press trumpeting the artificial "indigenous uprising" of the EZLN in Chiapas state starting Jan. 1, Cárdenas thought his day had come. Together with ex-Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solís, Cárdenas helped British intelligence to create the political climate

which culminated with the assassination of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, last March.

Lyndon H. LaRouche pointed out that behind the Colosio killing, the EZLN insurrection, and the murder last year of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, stands the Hollinger Corp., the media empire run by British intelligence which also is trying to topple President Clinton. Henry Kissinger, global speculator George Soros, and British ecologist-financier Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, are all on Hollinger's board. They wanted to give the *coup de grâce* to Mexico with this year's election with the "vote fraud" lie, but they fell far short of winning enough votes to give it any credibility.

Even pro-British papers like the *Washington Post* had to admit that exit polls showed that more than 70% said they had voted "for Mexico," not for personal reasons. "They put their country's interests first," the paper wrote. Indeed, Mexico came out stronger. The voters reaffirmed "Mexico's solidity as a nation," said President-elect Zedillo in his victory speech.

Cárdenas's defeat also deals a sharp blow to the São Paulo Forum, the narco-terrorist international founded by Fidel Castro in 1990, after Soviet communism collapsed in 1989. In several Ibero-American countries the Forum has tried to gain power through elections, while still backing guerrillas (or being a direct part of them, as with the EZLN), but the electoral front has failed miserably. After Cárdenas's downfall, the same fate may await the forum's presidential candidate in Brazil, Luís Inácio "Lula" da Silva. Forum presidential candidates lost recently in Venezuela (Causa R's Andrés Velásquez) and the Dominican Republic (José Francisco Peña Gómez).

As the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) underlined in a post-election statement, the Aug. 21 outcome was a vote "in favor of the institutions, national sovereignty,

a mandate for Zedillo to uphold the Constitution, in Chiapas as well as the rest of the republic: In Mexico there is only one army, not two." The MSIA helped rout Cárdenas by issuing 15,000 posters against the EZLN's real chief, the red bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Samuel Ruiz, fingering Cárdenas as his sidekick. The posters read: "Wanted for Treason, Samuel 'Commander' Ruiz" and "Get Samuel Ruiz out of the Lacando Jungle," depicting the red bishop as a snake. The MSIA also got out 7,000 pamphlets unmasking the São Paulo Forum right before the election.

The vote for the PRI does not mean that Mexicans approve the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the neo-liberal economic policy instituted by Carlos Salinas de Gortari and his predecessor Miguel de la Madrid, as the U.S. major media claim. Exit polls taken by the Harris-Mitofsky group and released by the Council of Radio-Television Industry, showed that 65% of voters want a change in economic policy.

Zedillo had campaigned with the promise to improve the general situation of rural and urban workers and create more jobs, as well as carry out reforms to end judicial corruption and over-centralization. His challenge will be to prepare the country for the global financial collapse ahead, which the largest-circulation daily in Mexico, *Excelsior*, warned of days before the election, with an extensive report on the ninth economic forecast of U.S. economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Cárdenas runs amok

Based on their own data, most of the opposition parties, including the PAN, which has historically charged fraud against the ruling PRI, have conceded Zedillo's victory and judged the elections free and fair despite some minor incidents. Cárdenas, on the other hand, alleged "monstrous fraud." Yet he has not presented his pollwatchers' figures, alleging that their computer system "crashed."

In those states where the PRI did not win, such as Sonora, Jalisco, and Nuevo León, the vote was for PAN candidate Diego Fernández de Ceballos; and even in states considered "Cárdenist" such as Tabasco and Chiapas, the PRI candidates won the governorships. The PRI also took all the senatorial seats and most of the lower house. In two states, the PRD of Cárdenas finished fourth, after Cecilia Soto, presidential nominee of the Workers' Party (PT).

In Chiapas, where the Zapatistas are entrenched, PRI gubernatorial candidate Eduardo Robledo Rincón won with 50% of the vote, with the well-organized support of private farm producers, whose lands the EZLN had appropriated. Even though most are PRI, for weeks before the elections the cattlemen and farmers had been putting up thousands of MSIA posters against "Commander" Ruiz, a bold action which helped people to lose their fear.

The National Democratic Convention which the EZLN held in early August mapped out plans for a total destabilization. "Subcommander Marcos" threatened that "there will be

civil war" if the PRI committed vote fraud. They claimed the PRI could not possibly win. Several thousand Cárdenas supporters gathered on Aug. 22 in Constitution Square in Mexico City, where cries of "Marcos, Marcos" and calls to arms abounded. In a flight from reality, Cárdenas said that although he would not claim to have won himself, "it cannot be said who won the election," and called for a crusade of "civil resistance," alleging that "the government is playing with the social peace." Leaders of the National Democratic Convention announced an urgent meeting, already speaking of "fraud." The EZLN announced that it would meet for 48 hours to decide what to do, because their partisans in Chiapas started "resistance" actions but with scant popular support.

On Aug. 23, Workers' Party candidate Cecilia Soto called Cárdenas "immature." On Aug. 24, Fernández de Ceballos, the candidate of the PAN, simply said, "Cárdenas went berserk."

They talk democracy, they want oil

Cárdenas's blackmail aims at pressuring Zedillo into forming a "coalition" government with the PRD and PAN and carrying out demented political reforms, such as stripping presidential powers, according to the script in the pro-British press. The *New York Times* on Aug. 23 lied that the opposition "got so much support" in the elections that the PRI would be forced to share power or risk a "lack of confidence" in the new administration. This "democratic" babble aims at replacing the nationalist "dinosaurs" of the PRI with the types Zedillo made deals with in order to win. But several newspapers admit anxiously that this is unlikely, because it would be "suicidal."

Grudgingly accepting the PRI victory, the London *Financial Times* wrote Aug. 24: "Many voices in the ruling party will tell Zedillo that the wide margin of his victory means that he must march alone. But he must ignore them." He must change the system even though he may enter into "conflict with some of the country's most powerful vested interests." Why? To carry out "the unfinished agenda" of Carlos Salinas—privatizing oil, railways, and electricity. Not accidentally, the state of Chiapas, where the separatist insurrection of the EZLN was staged, has over 60% of Mexico's oil reserves.

Still, it is going to be very hard for Cárdenas to apply such clout. Many of the foreign observers have already approved the electoral process. Three important arms of the U.S. Project Democracy—the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the National Republican Institute, and the Carter Center—recognized that "the high citizen participation is an example for the world." Republican Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) said that "I did not perceive any aspect of these elections which aroused suspicions in me or indicates to me that it had a significant impact on the final result." Even the coordinator of the technical team of U.N. observers, Dong Nguyen Huu, said that they had succeeded in eliminating "the suspicion of fraud."