

Terrorist apparatus laid bare in Mexico

by Valerie Rush

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo sent shockwaves through the ranks of the international terrorists when he ordered a military assault on Feb. 9 against the narco-terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), which has held the strategically important southern state of Chiapas hostage since Jan. 1, 1994. Arrest warrants were issued for the EZLN's top leadership after several Zapatista arms caches containing sophisticated weaponry, explosives, and communications equipment were discovered in the states of Mexico and Veracruz. Federal troops rapidly moved to retake "rebel territory" in Chiapas, driving the terrorists into a jungle preserve along the border with Guatemala. On President Zedillo's request, the border with Guatemala was sealed by order of that country's President, Ramiro de León, leaving the Zapatistas encircled.

In his speech to the Mexican nation that same night, President Zedillo made it clear that his decision to move responded to the urgent necessity of defending both Mexico's territorial integrity and national political stability. Despite repeated government offers of dialogue, said Zedillo, the Zapatistas "responded with threats of breaking the cease-fire, with armed and violent incursions into various municipalities of Chiapas, and with criminal and propaganda actions. . . . Initial investigations indicate that the EZLN was about to embark on new acts of violence. . . . Far from preparing for dialogue and negotiation, the EZLN's strategy was to buy time to arm and grow to carry out further acts of violence."

This, said Zedillo, could not be tolerated, and therefore his government moved to "immediately assume its constitutional duty to protect the safety of Mexicans and preserve social peace. The government cannot, nor should it, remain indifferent to violations of the Constitution which, in this case, clearly implied a threat to the Mexican people and

public order."

At the same time that President Zedillo ordered the Army into action, the government also released the true names and identities of several top Zapatista leaders, including the masked "Sub-Comandante Marcos" whose Hollywood-style "mystery man" image was carefully cultivated to lend a romantic aura to his gang of brutal terrorists. "Marcos," it turns out, is Rafael Sebastian Guillen, the son of a well-off Tamaulipas family who wrote his university thesis on the philosophy of Karl Marx and on French deconstructionists Michel Foucault and Louis Althusser.

The roots of terrorism

Not surprisingly, "Marcos" also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, became involved with various terrorist insurgencies in Ibero-America, and in the early 1980s lived in Nicaragua where he studied and received guerrilla training under the Sandinistas. According to reports from Madrid, the Spanish government is said to be in possession of evidence that the terrorist ETA has financed the EZLN, and its networks inside Mexico were giving both training and logistical support to Marcos's Chiapas operations. ETA has long been a crucial element in the continent-wide narco-terrorist apparatus, as revealed in the May 1993 explosion of a huge arms cache in Managua, Nicaragua.

Even more important, the identity of the EZLN's "Dr. Frankenstein" was brought to light when captured Zapatistas admitted what many in Mexico had already suspected: that Chiapan cleric Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, had sponsored the EZLN from the beginning. On Feb. 11, the Mexican daily *El Universal* ran an eight-column story revealing that Ruiz used the code-name "Mayan Prince"—especially interesting in light of Ruiz's stated commitment to



Support for President Zedillo against the terrorists: Shown here is a demonstration against the Zapatistas' violence on Jan. 14, 1994 in Tapachula, Chiapas, by a group called the Civic Alliance.

found an “autochthonous church” for the region’s indigenous people. It was earlier revealed that Ruiz had accepted more than \$7.5 million from the German theology of liberation “charity” Misereor during the previous decade, none of which had ever been accounted for to the Mexican Bishops Conference.

These revelations confirm in spades what *EIR* has asserted since the Zapatista uprising over a year ago: that the so-called “Mayan insurgency” in Chiapas is nothing but the northern extension of the same international terrorist project which spawned Peru’s Shining Path and similar narco-terrorist excrescences globally. Indeed, as *EIR*’s January 1994 *Special Report*, “‘Shining Path North’ Explodes in Mexico,” stated at the time, “Shining Path was created not by Quechua Indians but by foreign anthropologists and ethnologists trained at places such as the University of Paris, France’s Sorbonne, as part of a project designed principally by British intelligence.” Mexico’s EZLN is now proven beyond a shadow of a doubt to have the same genesis.

A popular mandate

Zedillo’s decision was in response to pressure from various quarters inside Mexico, including the Mexican electorate itself, which overwhelmingly voted him into office last August in explicit repudiation of the forces of destabilization represented by the EZLN and its electoral arm, the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). And yet, since his

decision, he has been under intense pressure from the U.S. State Department, London, certain Wall Street interests, and the international human rights lobby, which works in tandem with the Terrorist International, to order a retreat and pursue an El Salvador-style “conciliation” with the terrorists.

The British news agency Reuters was filled with dire threats about how Zedillo had “thrown caution to the wind” and taken a “huge political gamble” in ordering the Army to move against the Zapatistas. The *Wall Street Journal* similarly warned about Zedillo’s “large political risk” in undertaking an effort which could “undercut President Zedillo’s claims that he can turn Mexico into a country ruled by law rather than brute force and corruption.” The article described the alleged widespread “sympathy” the Zapatistas inspire throughout Mexico, and interviewed captured terrorists such as Alvaro Castillo Granados, who has openly admitted to making hand grenades for the Zapatistas and who told the *Wall Street Journal* that he was tortured by his jailers.

The “human rights” intelligence operation Americas Watch issued a statement protesting Zedillo’s deployment of the Army. Amnesty International issued a statement retailing the Zapatistas’ charges—denied by the Zedillo government—that the Army had strafed and bombed innocent villages, and murdered and raped women and children, in its pursuit of the Zapatistas. Lacking any evidence to confirm the accusations, the U.S. press nonetheless reported them.

■ Marcos’s own charges that the government’s deployment

of the Army answered to a conditionality of the international financial community's latest rescue package for Mexico, was also published by the major U.S. newspapers, obliging one of Mexico's creditors, Chase Manhattan Bank, to issue a public denial that it had ever called for "eliminating the Zapatistas." The pro-terrorist PRD party of failed presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas pulled 100,000 people into Mexico City's main plaza to chant, "We are all Marcos!" and to promise a nationwide campaign of "civil disobedience" if the Army were not pulled back in Chiapas.

The U.S. State Department, more subtle than the others, nonetheless exerted the greatest pressure of all. Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley told reporters on Feb. 13 that Washington had not yet received any reports that the Mexican Army was violating human rights but, according to Reuters, she said that Washington was urging the Zedillo government to treat the narco-terrorists with "restraint, respect for human rights, and full compliance with the legal process." Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on Feb. 14 that, to use President Zedillo's own words, "a solution to this conflict should come through full respect for the law, through political channels, and through conciliation." In other words, call off the war and start negotiating again.

The pendulum swings

Zedillo's vulnerability to this kind of pressure became evident on Feb. 14, when the ruling party's governor in Chiapas, Eduardo Robledo, announced his "voluntary" resignation from the post to "facilitate the peace process." His departure had been a key Zapatista demand.

At the same time, Zedillo gave a speech to a delegation of Indian representatives at the National Palace, in which he announced that he was temporarily suspending the arrest warrants against the Zapatista leaders while preparing an amnesty proposal for those willing to lay down their weapons and "enter the political process." He also announced that he had issued "precise instructions" to the Army and Attorney General's office that no offensive military action was to be undertaken, and that the Army should "limit itself to patrols to prevent violence."

Yet, as one knowledgeable source commented to *EIR*, if the Army is pulled out of Chiapas, it might as well be pulled out of Mexico entirely.

Zedillo's decision to halt his troops in mid-battle is a potentially disastrous move, and has given fresh encouragement to those who have targeted both the Mexican government and military for destruction. However, a celebration by Mexico's enemies would be premature. On Feb. 15, Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma Barragán issued a statement in the name of the Zedillo administration which, while reiterating the government's commitment to a just peace in Chiapas, emphasized that the government intended to adhere to constitutional law in dealing with the Zapatistas: "The

framework of respect for the law is not discretionary. The debate is not over the number of weapons found in the EZLN's safehouses, but over the question of whether society should have to live with the threat of armed subversion around every corner. The government cannot permit this."

Therefore, concluded Moctezuma, the arrest warrants against the Zapatista leaders still stand, as does "the decision to reestablish the state of law and the presence of governmental authority in the conflict zone. . . . Today, there does not exist any Mexican territory under the supposed control of a force other than those legitimately recognized by the nation. Today, the government is in a position to promote, for the first time in over a year, the social development programs that were suspended in the conflict zones. Today, scores of thousands of the displaced, the great majority of them Indian, can return to their homes. The Mexican Army has done its duty once again, with discipline, loyalty, and institutionally."

'The heart of the conspiracy'

In a Feb. 13 statement, the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), a continent-wide association which shares the policy outlook of American statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche, fully endorsed President Zedillo's decision to use the nation's Armed Forces against "a gang of narco-terrorist assassins at the service of a foreign conspiracy headed by the British Crown, the World Wildlife Fund [now the World Wide Fund for Nature] headed by Prince Philip, and its allies in the international financial oligarchy."

The MSIA statement emphasized that the EZLN, which President Zedillo had characterized as "neither popular, nor indigenous, nor Chiapan," was in fact the product of "an army of anthropologists and catechists from Belgium, France, and Britain who were deployed to Chiapas at the end of the 1950s as part of the 'Harvard Chiapas Project.'" It is now time, insisted the MSIA, to go to "the heart of the conspiracy and investigate its highest-level local agents: Comandante Samuel Ruiz, Manuel Camacho Solís, and Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solorzano. It has already been unequivocally demonstrated that they and the Zapatistas only used the truce to prepare to build a narco-terrorist network across the country, just as the MSIA had warned back in January 1994. Now the nation faces the threat of a wave of urban terrorism and more assassinations."

The MSIA demanded that Zedillo pursue the absolute defeat of the Zapatistas, with the support of the Mexican Army. The fact is that the current situation—terrorists temporarily cornered, Army temporarily shackled, and President Zedillo swaying like a pendulum—is clearly untenable. The broader networks, both domestic and foreign, which have sustained the Zapatistas, are moving quickly to turn the situation against both the presidency and the Army, which could lead to an explosive disintegration of Mexico's national institutions. The security implications for the United States are grave.