

Dateline Mexico by Andrea Olivieri

Zapatista breakout

The EZLN narco-terrorists are trying to acquire political legitimacy, with help from a credulous government.

After nearly seven months of being contained by the Mexican Army in the Lacandón jungle of Chiapas, the narco-terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) is going for a breakout, with the help of its international sponsors and supporters. Among its tactics are:

1) a "National Consultation," or plebiscite, to dress up its terrorist ranks as a legitimate political movement;

2) pressure to permit their entrance into negotiations on national issues, without either disarming or taking off their hoods; and

3) deployment in various guises, both in and outside Chiapas state, against institutions of government.

The "National Consultation" held in Mexico on Aug. 27 under the sponsorship of the pro-EZLN non-governmental organization (NGO) known as the National Alliance, was as illegal as it was unconstitutional, and yet it was permitted to take place by a government fearful of triggering negative propaganda from the pro-terrorist human rights crowd.

More than 8,000 "polling booths" were set up around the country, organizing to "get out the vote" was carried out by the EZLN's electoral arm, the PRD, and a well-financed press campaign was launched to convince Mexicans to "get out and vote," as if it were election time. The single question on the "ballot" was whether the EZLN should become a legal political entity, but the entire campaign was played as the only way to bring "peace" to Chiapas.

The Ernesto Zedillo government, which has until now confined its "dialogue" with the EZLN to specific eco-

nomie and political issues pertaining to the state of Chiapas, the EZLN's home base, has, under pressure from this U.N. crowd, proven overly credulous. Not only did President Zedillo publicly express satisfaction with the "National Consultation," but he has also made some dangerous concessions to the EZLN.

In his Sept. 1 State of the Union address, President Zedillo announced plans to formulate a new Law of Indigenous Rights, which would redefine the fourth article of the National Constitution. The next day, following a meeting with the congressional committee (Cocopa) formed to negotiate with the EZLN, Zedillo gave instructions for the EZLN to be invited to participate in formulating that new law, as well as in "negotiations over reforming the State." Both initiatives are key demands of the terrorists.

While the government has since specified that the EZLN must disarm before it can participate in these discussions, the Zapatistas insist that they will hold onto their weapons, no matter what. And yet, in a constitutional republic, there can exist but one army. By failing to militarily de-fang the Zapatistas, Zedillo is now in the position of offering to negotiate the law of the land with a gang of hooded and armed terrorists.

It comes as no surprise that agents of the United Nations and the World Bank are celebrating Zedillo's foolish concessions as "proof of Mexico's democratization." Zapatista sympathizer and director of the Inter-American Development Bank's Indigenous Fund, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, responded to Zedillo's invitation by declaring that the negotiations on State reform

should center around the concept of "free determination" or "autonomy," key and code words in the lingo of the globalists for ethnic separatism.

Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, former Mexican ambassador to the U.N. and currently the president of the PRD party, pushed even harder. In statements published in *El Universal*, Muñoz Ledo argued, "If the Zapatistas are included in the national dialogue, not only political reform, but also economic and social reform can be pursued."

Given a toehold, the Zapatista terrorists and their backers are ready to take the whole leg. The governors of the two key states of Tabasco and Guerrero have already been set up for Chiapas-style destabilization. This campaign to spread Zapatismo nationwide is receiving backing from London, the mother of international terrorism. An article in the London *Financial Times* in mid-August argued that investors were growing increasingly disgruntled that Zedillo was not proceeding with "democratic reforms" fast enough, and singled out the same two states of Tabasco and Guerrero as examples of the ruling PRI party's so-called political corruption.

Most revealing is the *Wall Street Journal's* Sept. 1 endorsement of the pro-terrorist El Barzón movement. Originally launched as a protest action by farmers and other debt-strangled Mexicans, El Barzón has since been taken over by Zapatistas, and has openly allied with the EZLN in anti-government demonstrations. Moderate elements have split out of the group, and yet Wall Street's mouthpiece promotes El Barzón as "a new kind of middle-class rebel." The article even quotes "Mexican expert" Christopher Whalen, a bankers' boy who makes his living in asset seizures, exulting that "the whole country is becoming a Barzón movement."