

# Wall Street thwarts Salinas investigation

by Gretchen Small

Just a little more than one year has passed since the landslide collapse of the Mexican peso in December 1994, which brought the myth of the Mexican economic “miracle” supposedly wrought by former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to a sudden, undignified end. The announcement in November that Salinas, the leading Ibero-American asset of the Wall Street and City of London financial crowd that owns George Bush, was the primary target of an ongoing international investigation into narcotics trafficking and corruption in Mexico, forced Salinas’s international sponsors onto the warpath in a mobilization to shut down the investigation, before the Salinas case led to further exposures of the criminal reality behind Bush, London, and the “free trade” swindle.

Shortly before Christmas, a well-placed source in the Mexican government reported that President Ernesto Zedillo, Salinas’s harried successor, had decided that Mexico could not buck Wall Street, no matter what, and that meant the investigation of Salinas had to be immediately suppressed. The counterattack began over the New Year’s weekend, when President Zedillo named a Salinas stooge, former Labor Minister Arsenio Farell, as his Comptroller General—the top official overseeing investigations of corruption.

## Wall Street’s orders

While promoted globally by that crowd as a model “free market” President, Salinas has been the central target of an international narcotics investigation, led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), for at least two years. The drug case broke into the press in November 1995, when Swiss authorities announced that they had arrested two Salinas family members, including the wife of Carlos’s brother Raúl, to question them about the millions they had stashed in Swiss bank accounts under false names.

With Raúl already jailed in Mexico on charges that he masterminded the assassination of a Mexican political opponent, the Swiss arrests opened the floodgates. Inside Mexico, long-hidden dossiers on the Salinas family’s looting of the public coffers, and ties to the Zapatista narco-terrorists, political murders, and the drug trade, poured into the press. Carlos fled to the protection of Fidel Castro in Cuba.

Wall Street mobilized, conveying privately and publicly to the Mexican government its demand that the Salinas investigation be buried, or “investors” would pull the plug on the economy. The *Wall Street Journal* repeats in every article it publishes on the case, that Carlos Salinas is a member of the board of directors of Dow Jones, which publishes the *Journal*.

Zedillo’s appointment of Farell signaled plainly that the Salinas protection apparatus was being moved into place. As labor minister, Farell crushed opposition to the genocidal austerity prescriptions mandated by the International Monetary Fund so successfully that, at the end of his regime, Salinas named Farell his special national security adviser.

From any domestic Mexican standpoint, the Farell appointment is inexplicable, since it could spell the doom of the Zedillo Presidency. Salinas’s political and economic machine in Mexico is still powerful, and well known as one of the biggest obstacles to Zedillo’s ability to rule the country, not the least because of its protection of the Zapatista narco-terrorists based in Chiapas, and related groups which spare no violence in their fight for the break-up of Mexico into weak, backward, “autonomous” green state-lets.

## More privatizations

In the Cabinet shuffle which brought in Farell, Zedillo also ousted his energy minister, Ignacio Pichardo, an old-line politician known as one of the “dinosaurs,” the name given those who believe in the “outmoded” idea that Mexico must continue to exist as a sovereign nation. Foreign financiers insist, as reiterated in December by the London *Economist*, that Mexico must privatize all of the state oil company, Pemex, to raise cash for debt payments. Pichardo opposed this, but his replacement, Jesús Reyes Heróles, Jr., the son (and namesake) of one of the top British agents in recent Mexican history, is a proponent of globalization all the way.

President Zedillo’s renewed decision that he could not stand up to Wall Street, may shatter the country. In recent months, Mexican patriots in the Catholic Church, the military, the government, and the private sector, have gone to the President, privately and publicly, to urge a change in economic policy. A group of Catholic bishops outlined to him how the International Monetary Fund austerity plan—under which the government paid over \$41 billion in foreign debts in 1995 alone—is not just killing individual Mexicans, but threatens the existence of the nation itself. The President told them that, while he is open to collaborating with them, in his view, there is “no alternative” to the IMF program.

Precisely because nationalist groupings continue to try to guide the Presidency to save the nation, the London/Wall Street financiers are demanding more; specifically, that Zedillo now order the jailing of leading IMF opponents.