

reserves," was laid out in mid-January to the U.S. Defense Department and U.S. Congress by national security specialist formerly with Rockefeller's Exxon Corporation, Melvin A. Conant. After presenting an array of scenarios to break up OPEC, many converging on a U.S.-instigated renewed Mideast war, Conant turned to the strategic role of the Western Hemisphere. "The U.S. can embark on an unprecedented effort to expand supply sources outside the Persian Gulf, to three highly prospective areas in this hemisphere... Canada, Mexico (and the Caribbean basins) and the Orinoco Belt of Venezuela. Success in developing oil resources in these three...should give solid assurance that the U.S. can withstand contrived supply shortages."

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Democrat of Texas, spelled out the specific role of Mexico's oil in this scheme Jan. 24. "Mr. Chairman," Bentsen said to Joint Economic Committee hearings of the U.S. Congress, "there are a number of disparate areas where trade-offs can be made between our two countries which will entail scant sacrifice by each government, but which can reap important mutual

benefits... Mexico should agree to provide the U.S. with an assured supply of Mexican oil at competitive prices to allow us to reduce our dependence on politically unstable Arab oil." Two days later a crony of Mexico's new director of Petroleos Mexicanos, an ex-oil union leader named Enrique Lopez Naranjo, was even more blunt. The Carter administration is coordinating investment from U.S. multinationals in Mexico's oil in order to "decapitate OPEC," he stated approvingly.

As for internal development of Mexico, Rockefeller's policy is one of de-industrialization. He is demanding the slashing of domestic consumption to increase exports, paraded as "conservation" or rationalization" of use. As Redvers Opie, former head of the American Chambers of Commerce in Mexico, reported to U.S. Congressional hearings last month, "the growth of domestic consumption of petroleum products" is a "difficulty" standing in the way of "foreign exchange earning prospects." His recommendation is "conservation-oriented measures to reduce the rate of growth in domestic production... for which rationing through higher prices would seem to offer the best hope of success."

The Mexican Labor Party Energy Program

The following are extracts from an energy program for Mexico recently elaborated by the Research and Development staff of the Mexican Labor Party (PLM). The PLM program is noteworthy for being the only concise overview of policy recommendations for expanded energy production available in the country. It is now being circulated widely in the Northwest, Monterrey, the Bajic, the states surrounding Mexico City, and Mexico City itself.

The Mexican Labor Party program for the development of Mexico's energy calls for the following steps:

- 1) Mexico must join OPEC.
- 2) Moratorium on the foreign debt.
- 3) Massive development of oil as the primary domestic energy source to set the basis for moving to fusion economy by 1990.
- 4) Priority commitment to expand existing fission reactor construction, both for direct electricity generation and the training of skilled nuclear workers.
- 5) Auxiliary development of hydroelectric power and coal.

Without debt moratorium, there is no oil or energy policy worth discussing. The mass of Wall Street's paper can only be part of an energy policy as a marginal fuel source.

OIL Mexico's enormous oil reserves put it in tremendous position to forge rapidly rising living standards throughout the country. No other densely populated Third World country has such advantages. And Mexico starts with a substantial inheritance from its previous nationalist policies: production levels of 1 million barrels per day (BPD) and refining capacity close to 850,000 BPD — both figures doubled during the administration of former president Luis Echeverria. Even more important, the famed 1938 oil expropriations have led to the creation of a large cadre of Mexican oil technicians and engineers — expertise which is now being exported to such countries as Venezuela.

The existing plans of Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) and Wall Street for expansion over the next six years — essentially paper projections to back up paper debt obligations with little chance of being fully implemented — call for raising pumping capacity to 2.2 million bpd and refining capacity to 1.67 million bpd, through investments of roughly \$15 billion.

These are absolute minimum plans. They are predicated on expanding exports to 1.2 million bpd — and letting domestic consumption stagnate. Instead, almost the

entirety of this expansion must be slated for domestic consumption, which if maintained on line to meet the 1990 fusion deadline, must increase at least two and a half times over the next five years.

However there is no reason for crash development of Mexico's oil to stop there. Additional investment should allow for exports to fuel rapid industrial expansion in other, less-oil rich areas. Ironically, one of the prime importers should be the United States. Not the United States of Carter, Brzezinski and Rockefeller, who are trying to drastically *reduce* U.S. energy consumption under "conservation" programs; who only want Mexican oil as a chip to break OPEC. Rather the U.S. of alliances between pro-growth industrialists and labor sectors who recognize that for the U.S. to take its necessary role in providing huge quantities of capital goods and technology to the Third World, and at the same time gear up a crash fusion energy program, interim fuels such as oil must be expended at greatly increased rates.

In the context of a debt moratorium, these exports can largely finance the \$5 billion and up capital imports needed for expanding the Mexican oil industry. They additionally should help finance the enormous capital goods import bill for the agricultural sector, transport, rebuilding the cities, etc. The remaining shortfall in these capital and technology accounts must be met from International Development Bank-style credits now outlined in European-Arab-Comecon monetary arrangements. Mexico stands in particularly good shape to enter such agreements with both the European Economic Community and the Comecon; Mexico has but to activate them.

Current *electricity* capacity of 12 million kilowatts is generated more than half from oil (about 7 million kw),

and the rest basically from hydroelectric plants (about 5m. kw). Total realizable hydroelectric potential for the country is 20 million. Given this potential, current plans calling for expanding hydroelectric power to 9 million kw by 1982 should be expanded. The additional generation of electricity to meet minimum goals of 30 million kw total capacity by 1982 must come from oil and fission nuclear energy.

It is possible some of this energy could come from coal as well, if current costs can be reduced. The recently announced Federal Electricity Commission program of building an expensive coal-burning plant to save miniscule quantities of oil is simply insane. Equally insane are any plans to use solar or wind energy as anything but museum reminders of the de-industrialization plans of Rockefeller and Ralph Nader.

Mexico's *fission* nuclear energy effort of Laguna Verde on the Veracruz coast, designed to produce 1.3 million kw from two reactors, or approximately 10 percent of current capacity, is extremely important for the country. The Mexican nuclear energy workers trained at Laguna Verde will constitute the core of trained labor able to man fusion reactors at the end of the next decade. Laguna Verde construction is reported to be recommencing soon, after damaging delays; it is imperative that it be immediately brought to completion.

Recent confirmation of 300,000 tons of uranium ore in Chihuahua, substantially raising current reserves, immediately opens the possibility of a large-scale program of expanded fission energy. Fission plants, operating with domestic fuel, can produce electricity at costs fully comparable to those of oil powered plants. An initial target of ten such facilities as Laguna Verde would not only vastly boost electricity generation but free substantial quantities of oil for other domestic use or export.

Colombia: Carter's Vietnam?

Speaking before a crowd of 50,000 demonstrators on Feb. 19 in Bogota, Colombian Communist Party (PCC) executive member Manuel Cepeda committed the PCC to an armed war of resistance against the threat of a fascist military coup and took the unprecedented step of publicly acknowledging the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Colombianas (FARC). Until now, the Communist Party has maintained strict silence on the FARC the armed guerrilla unit active in five fronts around the country with a broad base of popular support.

Two of the five FARC fronts in the country are located in southeastern Colombia in the province of Caqueta; one is in the central mountain range, one in the northeastern province of Magdalena Medio, and one in the northwestern province of Antioquia. A new front is opening up in Boyaca in the central eastern part of the country. A tightly organized and disciplined political entity, the FARC is the government in the areas of the country it controls. It collects taxes and provides protection to the

peasant population, whose support and loyalty it commands.

Support for the FARC is such that it operates freely in the areas it controls. Last week it raided the town of La Macarena in Meta province to replenish medical and food supplies and funds. The FARC laid siege to the police station, painted slogans on the walls and took with them a known CIA agent, Richard Starr, discovered in the town. During the period of occupation the inhabitants went about their business, ignoring the police chief's cries for help. Incidents like this are a common occurrence.

The FARC is mobilized and recruiting as peasants victimized by Army repression commit themselves to an armed, political defense of the population. FARC commander Marulanda Velez recently explained that "violence forces people to incorporate into the guerrillas to fight in defense of their rights ... if in Colombia there were total respect for human rights, including