

# Brzezinski tries to keep the EMS out of Mexico

Last week the French tried to tutor Jimmy Carter on diplomacy, but Zbigniew Brzezinski is apparently making sure Carter doesn't learn anything. The National Security Advisor has applied himself to increasing U.S. pressure on France, and the new European Monetary System, to halt "technology-for-oil" aid to Mexico's ambitious industrialization. The personal spokesman for French President Giscard d'Estaing, Pierre Hunt, last week characterized the policy this way: "We do not understand why French-Mexican energy accords could bother the U.S., unless it considers Mexico its private hunting preserve."

The U.S. policy emerged in portions of a classified policy review document, called Presidential Review Memorandum 41 (PRM-41), leaked to the *Washington Post* Dec. 15 by Brzezinski's office at the National Security Council.

As predicted two months ago in this journal (Vol. V, No. 42, Oct. 31), and now confirmed with a vengeance, PRM-41 outlines a series of "options" to Carter for "improved U.S.-Mexico relations." Its every feature implies strangulation of Mexican industry and development, and brutal pressure tactics to gain control of Mexico's enormous oil and gas reserves.

## A French "how-to" manual

In contrast, the French established a framework for negotiations with Mexico last week which could serve as a "how-to" manual for U.S. forces seeking a positive policy toward Mexico and the rest of the Third World.

At the core of the negotiations was the concept of "oil for technology" and transfer of technology. France's Industry Minister, Andre Giraud, headed up a French delegation in Mexico City preparing the groundwork for a visit by Giscard to Mexico at the end of February. Mexico's oil company, Pemex, together with the development bank Nafinsa, signed a 10-year "letter of intent" with the French Foreign Trade Bank. The letter proposes a financial mechanism which can allow the use of future oil income for purchase of capital goods and French services. Mexican exports of 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil to France were set to begin in 1980. Giraud stressed the need for "immediately encouraging French-Mexican industrial cooperation."

The joint communique issued at the end of his visit focused on the larger context for the French-Mexican

discussions. The new accords, it said, "should allow France to become an important economic partner of Mexico in Europe and allow Mexico to be an important partner of France in Latin America." Putting a price-tag on this "think-big" perspective, Jean-Francois Deniau, Foreign Trade Minister and head of a coalition of smaller parties supporting the Giscard government, issued a party platform calling for a \$100 billion fund for world development, including 10-year credits for Third World countries to buy industrial goods and technology from advanced sector areas (see INTERNATIONAL). Deniau will be in Mexico in early January to conclude the preparations for Giscard's trip.

The upcoming meetings of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo and Giscard, Giscard spokesman Pierre Hunt said, "take on special significance from the fact that Giscard will be president of the European Economic Community at that time."

## February battleground

The two opposing policy approaches — Brzezinski's on the one side, the EMS's on the other — will meet head on in Mexico two months from now. Brzezinski lined up Carter to visit Mexico in mid-February in an effort to undercut the previously scheduled Giscard trip.

And Carter appears to be astoundingly ignorant about Mexico. A month ago he was asked in a press conference about the furor caused by plans to build new, Auschwitz-style fences at various spots along the border. He responded, "What fences?" Two weeks later, asked to comment on what he hopes will develop from the Mexican trip, he blandly stated that he expected to "conclude ongoing negotiations" on a gas sale to the U.S. Any "ongoing" negotiations are certainly news to the Mexicans. They are still smarting from the high-handed way Schlesinger treated them a year ago and have repeatedly stated they don't intend to get back into the gas-selling business yet.

Given the way Brzezinski has briefed Carter in the past, his future coaching of Carter is highly dubious. In order to get Mexico's oil, says the *Washington Post* account of the PRM, "the United States could view Mexico as a world-scale partner and accord it significant concessions on winter export of farm products as well as quotas for legal immigration of workers to the United States." While the EMS plans the industrializing of the continent, Brzezinski

talks blandly of bringing in a few more Mexican tomatoes!

There is little doubt how Mexico will react. As Mexican Foreign Minister Santiago Roel stated in the midst of the PRM-41 publicity last week, "There will only be Mr. Lopez Portillo and Mr. Carter discussing the energy question, and Mr. Lopez Portillo will have the last word." We face a "wall of incomprehension" in our dealings with the U.S., he lamented. Instead, relations between the two countries must be based on "respect for national sovereignty. We must supersede the classical North-South relations developed in a geopolitical context."

— Tim Rush

## PRM-41: a translation

The *Washington Post's* front-page story on the Presidential Review Memorandum 41 of Dec. 15, under a J.P. Smith byline, was simultaneously published front-page in the *Los Angeles Times* and Mexico's *Excelsior*. Following are choice paragraphs from the *Post's* carefully publicized leak, with commentary.

"For the United States, Mexico represents a major new energy source, presently outside OPEC... A redirection of Washington's policy toward Mexico could provide an alternative to increased dependence on Arab oil..."

*This was the Zionist lobby line picked up enthusiastically by Senator Edward Kennedy last summer. The Senator has repeatedly stressed that he is not interested in Mexican oil because he wants the U.S. to have plentiful energy, but rather as a geopolitical option held in reserve against the Middle East OPEC producers, particularly Saudi Arabia.*

"[Redirection of policy] could result in a sanctioned program for Mexican aliens now immigrating illegally to the United States..."

*Mexico's position is simple: it wants to export "goods, not people." This can be done by industrializing at full speed. Mexico knows that such industrialization, joined to development in other Third World areas, means an industrial resurgence in the U.S. — a resurgence capable of absorbing and training Mexican workers while Mexico's "economic takeoff" gains force. No negotiations over the "illegals" question, especially in the context of an "oil-for-aliens" deal, will be acceptable to Mexico. It properly recognizes that the issue is one of blackmail.*

"[Redirected policy] could result in lowering tariff and other trade barriers to Mexican exports, such as vegetables and textiles..."

*What is not mentioned is that these "concessions" will only be granted if Mexico agrees to lower its own import restrictions, particularly against U.S. consumer goods, preferably in the context of Mexico's joining GATT. Said Viron Vaky, Undersecretary of State of Latin American Affairs and an insider in the PRM-41 discussions, in a*

*speech this week: "Mexico must liberalize its trade, because that is a key point in mutual relations." But Mexico has made clear that it will not tolerate this policy of deindustrialization. The trade issue is one of the biggest clubs being wielded against Mexico by the Brzezinski forces.*

"And [redirected policy] could result in the creation of a special negotiator for Mexican Affairs reporting directly to the President or [the] Secretary of State..."

*This proposal was floated by Kennedy last summer through pliant journalist fronts at the New Republic magazine. Kennedy wants a special negotiator to maximize pressure for a "package deal" with a minimum of negotiating room for Mexico.*

"James R. Schlesinger, Jr. was reproved in a sharply worded letter last Nov. 8 from National Security Council head Zbigniew Brzezinski for trying to end-run the Council's PRM process by going directly to the President or negotiating directly with Mexico's national oil company."

*The question is whether the Texas-based groups who want an oil-for-technology policy with Mexico are going to fall for Brzezinski's sudden dismay with Schlesinger. This supposed displeasure is modeled on Kennedy's sudden discovery of Schlesinger's sabotage of the gas deal last summer, at the height of the Zionist lobby's interest in Mexico's oil.*

"If the United States adopts a posture treating Mexico as 'a partner,' sharing advantages equally, the PRM suggests that a North American community, including Canada, could eventually evolve. This also would imply increased Mexican energy production, without any loss of Mexico's national sovereignty."

*"Without any loss of Mexico's sovereignty" — Most Mexican officials know that what was actually meant by this kind of "common market" scheme is Mexican annexation to the U.S. as a quaint supplier of agricultural goods and raw materials. Canadian Seagram's whiskey magnate Edgar Bronfman, in an interview last summer, added his wholehearted approval of the notion as a step toward legalizing marijuana production in Mexico and marijuana consumption in the U.S.*

"The rationale for a carefully stitched Mexico policy, the draft PRM says, is that 'While there is little danger that — unless we attempt to seal the border — Mexico will become overtly hostile, the cumulative impact of unmanaged tension could end the conditions that have enabled the United States to discount Mexico's nearness.'"

*"Unless we attempt to seal the border." This phrase alone in an official secret memo at the highest level whose outlines "were agreed upon at a cabinet-level meeting last week" tells Mexico all it needs to know of the mentality of the PRM drafters. The passage brings to mind scenarios-mongering to be boiled down later into the one-word code-phrase: "security threat."*