

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menendez

Red bishop, black bishop

Two bishops, Lefèbvre and Méndez Arceo, share the same file on the chessboard: terrorism.

A motley crew descended on Mexico in the week after Reagan and López Portillo, meeting at the border, began to set things right for a change in U.S.-Mexico relations.

There was David Rockefeller, saying all the old things which had poisoned relations in the past; a "human rights" delegation spreading lies in an attempt to make Mexico sound as repressive as the shah's Iran; and Ted Heath showed up with some Brandt Commission baggage in tow.

But the uninvited guest who has caused the greatest furor was Marcel Lefèbvre, the schismatic French archbishop.

Lefèbvre sneaked into the country Jan. 7. He immediately proceeded to a small town, Tlaxiaco, in a remote Indian area of the southern state of Oaxaca, where the local priest had been excommunicated for following Lefèbvre's teachings.

In total defiance of Article 33 of the Constitution, which forbids foreign priests the right to say mass, he promptly pronounced mass for several thousand Indians and was making preparations to baptize infants and perform marriages.

Then a wave of national indignation caught up with him, and the Interior Minister, Enrique Olivares Santana, warned him that he would be expelled if he did not comply with the Constitution.

Lefèbvre, at least temporarily, backed off from further masses. He

had achieved his primary goal of polarizing the country.

But rushing to the defense of the most "right-wing" of Church figures was none other than Sergio Méndez Arceo, the famed "Red Bishop" of Cuernavaca. Méndez Arceo argued that any effort to expel Lefèbvre would be an "arbitrary and exaggerated" act. "If it weren't for the fact that he is an avowed dissident against the Pope," Méndez Arceo explained, "Lefèbvre would be just another traditionalist among the many who currently exist within the Church."

More than an "I'll scratch your back and you scratch mine" attitude was involved for these supposed opposing factions, both of whom want to see a direct political role for the Church in defiance of the Mexican Constitution.

The two bishops are master players at the game run at a higher level than "left" or "right": terrorism. Lefèbvre is the direct creation of the blackest of Italy's "black nobility," the Pallavicini family of Rome and Genoa. It is this black nobility which has been documented in recent studies of the Moro kidnapping and related incidents as the real controllers and bankrollers of international terrorism.

For his part, Méndez Arceo is the unabashed defender and "middleman" for almost every incident of terrorism which has taken place in Mexico over the past decade.

And he is now sponsoring a top-level planning session for the next round of terrorism, to be held in Cuernavaca the second week of February. The cover of the meeting is a "Bertrand Russell Tribunal" on "human rights violations" in El Salvador. The chief organizing institution on the European side is Italy's Lelio Basso Foundation, whose founder was at the center of the same Sicily-Libya terrorist network behind the Billygate scandal.

Méndez Arceo and company have attempted to keep the meeting under wraps until all details are in place; Mexican security authorities are only now picking up the trail.

Méndez Arceo just 20 years ago was the Marcel Lefèbvre of Mexico, leading crusades against "communist textbooks" being distributed by the government and attempting to revive the fundamentalist "Cris-tero movement" which fielded a bloody uprising against the Mexican state in the 1920s.

Some of the most notable support for his current Cuernavaca activities comes from the circles of the resident priestess of expatriate Italian black nobility, Princess Beatrice of Savoy.

And in the middle of Lefèbvre's Oaxaca stay, a Méndez Arceo protégé named Francisco De la Cruz invited Lefèbvre to visit De la Cruz's leftist squatters' settlement in Mexico City, known as the "Campamento Dos de Octubre."

De la Cruz, according to reliable security-related sources in Mexico, has trained up to 40 Mexican and Latin American guerrillas at the *campamento*.

Why the invitation? One of De la Cruz's political bases is the same Oaxaca town run by Lefèbvre's excommunicated disciple.