

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### Unity of the left shatters

*Ayatollah Heberto threw a temper tantrum when he wasn't chosen as the left's presidential candidate.*

One of the most sophisticated operations against the stability of the Mexican political system got hit badly this week when the Mexican Workers Party (PMT), led by Ayatollah Heberto Castillo, angrily stomped out of the negotiations which were bringing the Mexican left together in a bloc.

EIR has seen documents proving that the brains of the intended unification of the *left*, announced last month, is nothing other than the Mexican *right*: the Jesuit Social Communication Center (Cencos). This Cristero entity, directed by José Alvarez Icaza, who along with Porfirio Miranda has promoted the "Christian-Marxist" dialogue, has been one of Ayatollah Heberto Castillo's primary bulwarks of support. Alvarez Icaza has worked for years to build an alliance to do to Mexico what Khomeini did to Iran. As the confidential documents we reviewed show, the Cencos strategy was to pull every Mexican left party out of any form of traditional politics, and into an alliance premised on anarchist hostility to the state.

A key piece of this strategy was that, once unification was achieved, Heberto Castillo would be elected as the "strongman" of the coalition. That is, Castillo would be Secretary General and the unity candidate for President.

In less than a month, the entire Jesuit apparatus was announcing through all the media at its disposal that Heberto, "the most charismat-

ic and best known opponent of the government" (i.e., of industrial development plans) would be the left candidate. All the left press, including the Communist newspaper *Oposición*, the daily *Uno más Uno*, and the weekly *Proceso*, trumpeted that Heberto was *the* man. The operation reached its climax Oct. 17 when the PCM held its national congress. Jesuit-controlled PCM chief Arnaldo Martínez Verdugo announced in his long keynote that the PCM would make itself disappear into a new left unity party. That party, he announced, would promote a unity candidate for President, Heberto Castillo. In fact, the leaders of the six other left parties were already up on the PCM platform, chanting along with the PCM mob, "the left united will never be defeated." But when the dust settled at the end of the PCM congress, they had nominated an old trade unionist from their ranks, Othón Salazar—and *not* Ayatollah Heberto—as their presidential candidate. The spanking new "unity of the left" was shattered—defeated by the counter-attack of Moscow, Eurocommunism, and the Mexican government itself.

I learned from well-informed sources that the Soviet leadership disapproved of the alliance: Russia is reportedly more interested in the political stability of the Mexican government than in encouraging the disappearance of one of its supposedly fraternal parties. And they

passed the word on to the PCM leadership.

Another factor was Italian Communist boss Enrico Berlinguer's visit to Mexico. Berlinguer, present at the PCM meeting, manifested his total lack of enthusiasm for their "popular front" tactic by not once mentioning the central theme of unity in his speech closing the conference. And in contrast to Martínez Verdugo's complaints about the "repressive" Mexican government, the Italian Communist chief publicly thanked President López Portillo for the courtesy of granting him a private meeting. Berlinguer also congratulated López Portillo for the Cancún summit, while telling the local Communists he would stand clear of Mexican internal politics.

We also learned that some forces inside the Mexican government energetically explained to the PCM that support for Heberto could cause some unspecified "problems" to the PCM's electoral efforts.

What is certain is that the Mexican Workers Party (PMT) refused to accept unity, and promptly announced their withdrawal from the unity talks until after the July 1982 elections. Yet less than 48 hours after the PMT pullout, its leading intellectual quit the party. Francisco Paoli Bolio, educated by the Jesuits at the Universidad Ibero-Americana, and currently Dean of Political Science at the Autonomous Metropolitan University, issued a tearful open letter bitterly decrying Heberto's failure to see that his move would destroy the party.

Can the left still remain united without its "charismatic" figure? That's what analysts now ask.