

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### The Sonora battle

*Despite having one of the country's best governors, the PRI party apparatus is weak in this weathervane state.*

**G**overnor Samuel Ocaña of Sonora cracked down the last week of May on border crime and on terrorist networks working through several of the opposition parties, who were using the new Political Reform law at the state level to camouflage their activities.

On May 23, the state electoral commission stripped the registration from PAN party candidates in the border cities of San Luis Río Colorado, Nogales, and Naco. Investigation had shown the candidates had criminal records, including convictions for fraud, automobile theft, arms contraband, and in one case, participating in the ranks of the terrorist 23rd of September League group. It was announced that the mayoral candidate of the PAN in Ciudad Obregón, the second largest city in the state, also had charges pending against him, and action on his candidacy is expected.

As this column has repeatedly noted, the political reform is a pluralist concoction with dangerous implications for maintaining the republican institutions of the country. The Sonora-Arizona border area is a special flashpoint for national security concerns (see article, page 44).

The national leadership of the PAN, an avowedly rightwing "solidarist" party with roots in the fascist National Action parties which sprang up in numerous Latin America countries just before

World War II, raised an outcry about the disbarment of its border candidates.

The move against the PAN in Sonora has particular significance because of Sonora's vanguard commitment to rapid economic and social progress. The state has the most advanced agriculture in the country, and has won that capability by "making the desert bloom."

However, a large portion of the faction-ridden local PRI apparatus is making deals with the PAN and with the PAN's sister solidarist operation on the "left," the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

Stabilizing the situation is the strong presence of the Mexican Labor Party (PLM) in the state. While the PAN and the PSD attack Ocaña's industrialization projects, the PLM has brought skilled farmers, students, and entrepreneurs into a statewide network of support for the giant Water Plan of the Northwest (PHLINO) and the Nuclear Test Reactor Center, soon to be constructed outside the state capital of Hermosillo.

It was no surprise to see giant PLM banners at the May 9 inauguration ceremonies for construction of a new 447-kilometer stretch of canal which will connect the Río Fuerte and the Río Mayo irrigation districts in the south.

With President López Portillo on hand, Governor Ocaña highlighted the importance of the PHLINO as the bridge toward the

day "when we have the atom to convert our seawater into fresh water, and irrigate our enormous plains and deserts."

At a PLM regional conference in Ciudad Obregón the weekend of May 29, party leaders warned that elements of the PSD and PAN, working in collaboration with the anarchist-environmentalist communes, were planning violent actions to stop the nuclear project.

The PLM presence in eight state and local races in July's election has caught the notice of more than local forces. A U.S. journalist named Marvin Alisky charged in a *Wall Street Journal* black propaganda piece of June 2 that the campaign of Patricio Estévez, the PLM's candidate for senate in Sonora running against former Pemex chief Jorge Díaz Serrano, was backing Britain in the Malvinas Islands dispute.

The witting lie—one of the hallmarks of Estévez's campaign has been calls for Mexico to back Argentina's anti-colonialist fight—seems to have been an effort to cross wires in readers' minds regarding America's leading anti-British political figure, *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, who was a guest of honor the week before at the PLM's Fourth National Congress in Mexico City.

Subsequent investigation has shown that Alisky coordinated with local U.S. consular officers special "dirty tricks" operations against the PLM in Sonora. These consular personnel were traced back to U.S. International Communications Agency officers in Mexico City and State Department officials in Washington, who are scrambling to contain the PLM's influence in Mexico and LaRouche's influence in Latin America.