

U.S. consul in Mexico linked to deployment of would-be assassins

by Hector Apolinar

The issue of U.S. interference in Mexican politics has always been an extremely sensitive one, on both sides of the border. An EIR investigative team has uncovered a new chapter in the history of such scandals. The U.S. consular office in the strategic border state of Sonora, according to EIR researches, has intervened in local politics to bring the opposition National Action Party (PAN) into power in the state and overthrow the control of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

The scandal has special implications for three reasons: 1) The PAN Party is not a legitimate participant in the spectrum of Mexican political groups, but is an off-shoot of European oligarchist interests who were responsible for the rise of Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy. 2) There is reason to believe that the U.S. State Department has supported the illegal consular activities as part of a broader project of undermining the PRI party. Highly reliable sources told EIR in July that it had been State Department policy, worked through the office of information (USICA) of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and other related channels to build up the PAN vote in the July 4, 1982 elections. State Department officers at the time described the PAN party to callers as "a group with roughly the ideology of the Republican Party in the U.S." 3) Fascist opposition groups in Mexico are privately putting a six-month timetable on tearing down the government of Miguel de la Madrid, who was inaugurated on Dec. 1.

The Sonora case—which is still far from being fully bared—could be a litmus test of State Department intentions during these crucial first months of the new Mexican government. Will it keep its Sonora operation in place, or will it put a stop to the 15 year pattern of illegal covert operations in a friendly country?

Gavin should have realized the kind of consular office he had on his hands with the stunt pulled by newly-installed consul Anthony Arredondo upon Gavin's arrival in Hermo-

sillo Nov. 13. Arredondo arranged for consular cars to drive directly up the airplane and take Gavin away without the ambassador's passing through the reception building—where Ocaña was waiting to greet him. When Gavin realized what was up, he immediately changed the route in order to see the governor. Ocaña, however, kept his distance from the local U.S. personnel by not attending the reception at the new consular headquarters. Instead, Casimiro Navarro, PAN mayor of the city about whom more is said below, attended as a special guest.

The Ambassador was greatly surprised when greeted at the door of the consulate with an open letter which demanded that he explain publicly whether the consulate's illegal activities and those of Terry Dale Hansen were approved by the embassy or by any other U.S. government agency, and if President Reagan was informed of those activities.

The letter was signed by the Mexican Labor Party (PLM), a political organization with strong influence in the state; the PLM is currently attempting to forge a U.S.-Mexico alliance around high-technology Mexican economic development projects, in collaboration with the National Democratic Policy Committee of Lyndon LaRouche in the United States.

The PLM documented that Terry Dale Hansen had given "asylum" to the PAN mayoral candidate, Casimiro Navarro, on the day of voting, July 4, on the unsubstantiated grounds that Navarro faced persecution at the hands of local authorities. The ploy served to give Navarro a spate of publicity, which influenced the elections. It also violated Mexican law.

'A lack of citizenship'

The consulate's intervention into the electoral process was discussed in the State Congress, which judges and certifies the election results. Several groups requested that the congress annul the election and conduct an investigation of the collusion between the PAN and the consulate.

On Sept. 14, the special investigatory commission of the lower house of the State Congress returned its findings. It

acerbically noted that "during these proceedings, information requested of the consul general of the United States in this city, by way of collaboration, has not been received, despite being requested on two occasions." However, the report continued, "information exists which can be considered sufficient proof of the fact that Casimiro Navarro Valenzuela, in the electoral process of this municipal district, invoked and obtained the protection of the U.S. government." The commission decreed a "categorical vote of censure," noting "we are convinced that this case shows clearly a lack of citizenship and political maturity on the part of Casimiro Navarro: His conduct implicitly repudiated the civil and military entities that maintain our national integrity and the security of Mexicans, and are not tied to any type of faction or partisan interest. . . ."

That month, Hansen was suddenly replaced at his post, without his providing any information on the motives for the rather extraordinary actions of the consulate in the case.

In the same open letter, the PLM demonstrated that the consulate, under the direction of Hansen, was also implicated in an armed threat against members of the PLM. This threat came on Aug. 27 by one of Hansen's former personal guards, Martín Andrés Ady, and his associate Miguel Angel Monteros Sánchez. The threat was made when PLM members were publicizing evidence of Hansen's support of Casimiro Navarro in the elections.

On Sept. 7, Ady and Monteros were arrested by the Judicial Police of the state of Sonora, shortly after having made a second armed threat against members of the PLM.

At the time of arrest, police found a .22-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol, binoculars, and a mini-tape recorder with the suspects, as well as a document in the handwriting of the arrested parties which stated: "To die is easy. We categorically affirm that it only takes two seconds. Only those who deserve to, die. Those who are not corrupt do not deserve to die. Aside from poisoning the water or an intravenous injection of air, there exist 107 strange forms of death. Isn't it true that dying is easy? We act on our own. We have been educated with stern military discipline and we are concentrated in the state of Sonora for as long as it may be necessary [signed] MAC—Death to the corrupt ones."

Death squads?

The document gave rise to the hypothesis that Ady and Monteros are part of a previously unknown paramilitary group, or death squad. This has been discussed at the highest levels of the national security apparatus, and it is believed that a special task force may have been established to deter the formation of similar groups in other border states where contact has been detected between U.S. consuls and the opposition parties—as has been the case, for example, in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

It would not be the first time local U.S. agencies were involved in support of fascist shocktroop formations. In 1967, the U.S. Information Service (today, USICA) office in Her-

mosillo played a direct role in the formation of the Movimiento de Integración Cristiana (MICOS) on the University of Sonora campus. The Mexican director of the USIS office himself left his job to head up the founding of the MICOS, who have terrorized that and other Sonora campuses since. During the mayoralty campaign early this year, the MICOS threatened a terror rampage if PAN candidate Navarro were not installed as mayor. Hermosillo archbishop Carlos Quintero Arce, was also instrumental in the creation of the MICOS and their subsequent protection, according to several local witnesses.

As the interrogations of Ady and Monteros by the Sonoran authorities unfolded, additional links between the U.S. consul, the hired would-be assassins, and the PAN party emerged. Ady revealed that he had worked as Hansen's security guard up to six months before the incidents leading to his arrest. Cross-checked intelligence sources have informed this reporter that Ady moved from his employment with Hansen to fulfilling the same function, along with Monteros, as part of Casimiro Navarro's security team during the electoral campaign.

In his interrogation, Ady could not account for the unregistered pistol that had been found with him. Several days later it was officially announced that there had been a theft of a .22-caliber pistol owned by former Consul-General Hansen. It was reported that the theft had been made several months earlier. No explanation was given as to why the report of the "robbery" had never been made public.

On Nov. 5, the PLM released details of an investigation of the law firm defending Ady and Monteros. The law-firm of record, Victor Manuel Montoya, is a partner in the firm of Eugenio Santeliz Jiménez, who in turn is the chief purchasing officer for PAN mayor Casimiro Navarro. According to those who know Santeliz, he is admirer of Hitler and a disciple of one of the core neo-Nazi operatives in Mexico today, Salvador Borrego.

The Ady and Monteros cases have now provoked a scandal in the Sonoran capital comparable only to the mysterious abduction and assassination of U.S. consul Peterson in 1972.

Gavin's hasty exit

Ambassador Gavin was hardly repaid by the local PAN apparatus for Hansen's exertions. Casimiro Navarro, the PAN mayor, spoke so long and so incoherently at the consulate inauguration that it became evident to the entire audience that he was drunk.

The next day, Nov. 14, Gavin gave a press conference just before leaving Sonora. When a reporter asked him about the statements of Governor Ocaña on the involvement of the consulate in support of the PAN, Ambassador Gavin lost his diplomatic aplomb.

Passing up an opportunity to clarify the matter and assuage Mexican concern, he snapped: "The U.S. does not intervene in any country. Don't ask me these stupid questions or invent things." He quickly boarded his plane.