

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### From Puerto Vallarta to Chile

*The Club of Rome's marching orders for Mexico are relayed by Business International and Banamex.*

**I**mportant developments came out of the closed-door annual meeting of Business International in Puerto Vallarta. It brought together some 100 CEOs of multinational corporations, as well as present or past political and government figures such as Helmut Schmidt of West Germany; Gaston Thorn, current head of the EEC; U.S. Trade Negotiator William Brock; Rockefeller family fixture Sol Linowitz; and former Undersecretary of the U.S. Treasury C. Fred Bergsten.

Though shunning publicity, the meeting leaked its marching orders: 1) strengthen the IMF as the only institution capable of handling the current crisis, 2) promote the policies the IMF has imposed on Mexico—which are hurtling the economy toward disintegration—as the model for renegotiation of debt in other developing-sector nations; 3) create a publicity campaign around foreign labor in the United States and Europe as one of “the hottest issues of the political health of the world”; and 4) urge world business to form itself into “an entity the equivalent of the Club of Rome and the Brandt Commission.”

The reference to the Club of Rome was natural enough. The meeting in effect constituted the business arm of that NATO-spawned zero-growth think tank. Club of Rome chief Aurelio Peccei was personally on hand. Business International's director, the fanatical Malthusian Orville Freeman, is a member of the U.S. Association of the Club of Rome.

According to José Represas, the

chief of operations in Mexico for the Swiss firm Nestlé, and the only Mexican businessman allowed to enter the Business International sanctum, the internal discussion focused on how to eliminate mechanization from both advanced-sector and Third World economies: “It was the general opinion,” that “generalized automation” must be fought, because “both the developing and developed nations [have] unemployment increases which put social peace in jeopardy.”

What all the leading participants stressed in statements to the press was that Mexico must strip away its nationalist investment laws, which attempt to steer foreign investment on a minority-participation basis into priority, high-technology areas; and join GATT, to subject its manufactures to the “discipline of the marketplace.”

Only four Mexicans officially attended this important meeting: three ministers of state (Finance, Planning and Trade) and Nestlé's José Represas. *EIR* learned from an inside source that Business International did not want to invite any other Mexican business leaders because the high-level meeting—of active members only—was formulating ideas they hope to introduce into Mexican business circles by other means, without revealing the origin.

Specifically, BI's Friedmanite proposals are to be sold to Mexico's businessmen through courses and conferences sponsored by Banamex, before its nationalization a leading

banking outlet of the Swiss oligarchy. One of Banamex's special capabilities goes by the name of David Konsevik.

Konsevik, an Argentine by birth of Polish origin, is one of Chilean dictator Pinochet's leading advisers. Lately he has devoted his energies to convincing Mexico's private sector of their “alternatives” in the present crisis. Brought to Mexico by Banamex's former president Agustín Legorreta in the beginning of the 1980s, Konsevik left Argentina in the early 1970s and moved to Chile. He later returned to Chile as part of the Chicago School team sent to “cure” the Chilean economy. Sources close to Konsevik report that in the past few months he has traveled throughout Mexico and to numerous other Ibero-American cities, proselytizing the virtues of monetarism and lying outright about the recovery of the Chilean economy under his auspices.

One of Konsevik's favorite anecdotes, we are told, is that when his team presented Pinochet with its recovery proposal and warned him it would provoke political and social upheaval in the country, Pinochet reportedly put his machine gun on the table and said, “You take care of the economy. I'll take care of the upheaval.”

Konsevik, however, has not been well received here by those businessmen who are not involved in dirty dealings. These businessmen have told us, “Konsevik proposes that we let our industries collapse and run casinos instead, but this would be the easiest means of letting foreign capital take over the country.” The industrialists also objected to Konsevik's idea of turning Mexico into an exporter solely for oil, minerals, and agricultural products, along with Hong Kong-style “manufacturers”—in short, a return to colonialism.