

April trip to Washington of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The Hamburg tabloid reported that Genscher had picked up a strong mood in the United States favorable to pulling out of Europe.

Bonn sources inform *EIR* that Genscher is on an all-points decoupling campaign. "It won't go unnoticed that he absolutely refused to criticize the Soviets at all over Chernobyl, but will attack the United States on the slightest pretext. He is the chief of the decoupling lobby in Bonn," one source commented March 13.

On March 12, the Sunday weekly *Welt Am Sonntag*, reported that the West German Embassy in the United States had authored a memorandum, signed by Ambassador von Well, warning that the combined pressures of budget-cutting and the fallout from the Libya affair, were creating significant momentum for phasing out the U.S. presence in Europe. The memorandum reported an item from the U.S. publication, *Defense Daily*, that the U.S. Third Armored Division would be withdrawn from West Germany.

On May 16, the tabloid *Bild Zeitung* claimed to have obtained the von Well memorandum, and included a comment from an unnamed Bonn official, warning that tendencies toward decoupling in the United States were being taken "very seriously," especially as the withdrawal of U.S. troops would mean a "weakening of our defenses," and that "nuclear weapons would have to be used earlier" in case of war.

### The Trilateral offensive

A major forum for the decouplers will be established when approximately 200 Trilateral Commission members arrive in Madrid May 16, for the May 17-19 annual "international plenary" of the Commission. The May 19 sessions will be dominated by a report, "Towards Perspectives for East-West Relations," prepared by William Hyland, editor of the Council on Foreign Relations' *Foreign Affairs* journal and former Kissinger aide at the U.S. National Security Council, and Karl Kaiser, research director at the German Society for Foreign Relations, the Bonn affiliate of the CFR.

Following this, Commission mentor Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to Jimmy Carter, will give a presentation on "The Political Objectives of the Trilateral Commission." In a recent interview with the French magazine, *Politique Internationale*, he recommended the unilateral withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe.

The meeting is receiving an incredible boost from the Spanish elite. Dinner receptions are to be held at the Royal Palace, hosted by the King and Queen of Spain, on Monday evening, May 19, and there will also be dinners hosted by Prime Minister Felipe González, on Saturday, May 17, and a lunch hosted by opposition Alianza Popular leader Manuel Fraga on the same day. Remarkably, González himself will leave, immediately thereafter on May 19, for a state visit to Moscow, accompanied by 29 Spanish government officials and businessmen.

## OAS sees red at U.S. meddling in Mexico

by Valerie Rush

The United States' allies in the Western Hemisphere are outraged that Mexico has become the latest target for the joint "democratization" campaign of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and the liberal State Department establishment. The view of the Organization of American States, according to sources quoted in the Mexico City daily *Excelsior* on May 15, is that Mexico has been set up, in hearings staged by Helms on May 13, for the "Marcos treatment."

The OAS sources minced no words: "It is totally unacceptable that Washington should arrogate to itself the inalienable right of every nation to rule itself. It appears that Washington believes that all the world is like the Philippines, but Latin America, at least, is not and we are prepared to prove it."

In a packed hearing room on Capitol Hill on May 13, witnesses at hearings called by Senator Helms alleged that "massive corruption" at the highest levels of the Mexican government—including even the family of President Miguel de la Madrid—had led to the downfall of democracy in that country, and predicted more and more instability unless the ruling PRI party yields power to the drug-trafficking National Action Party (PAN).

The Mexican government responded to the Helms-State Department assault with what has been described as "one of the bitterest statements" ever: sovereignty and blatant interventionism which threatens to "mutilate the climate of harmony and understanding sought" by the two nations, a "strong and formal" protest was sent by the Mexican government to Secretary of State George Shultz. The statement charged that the Helms hearings, "apart from adulterating the truth and presenting a distorted view of Mexican reality, are a clear and unacceptable violation of Mexico's sovereignty. The government of Mexico does not accept that U.S. officials take it upon themselves to make statements on Mexico's internal affairs, as these affairs concern only the Mexican people and no government has the right to pass judgement. . . .

The State Department answered Mexico's formal complaint by insisting that the hearings were "a candid, public, balanced review" and by otherwise refusing to comment on the contents of the Mexican protest.

The Helms-sponsored hearings on Mexico take place in the context of a drive by the State Department and friends to force developing-sector nations, one by one, to fork over their wealth to the world financial elite. The State Department-inspired overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos was but the first such destabilization. Jesse Helms was all too ready to lend his good offices to an attempted repeat performance in the strategically critical nation of Panama.

While that effort has not ended, patriotic forces inside Panama have stalled the operation by applying *EIR*'s polemical method—in a way Mexico would do well to study. They printed, in the Panamanian newspapers, reams of documentation on the Nazi past and drug-pushing present of the folks Helms and the State Department were touting as the “democratic opposition.”

Helms's Panama hearings of March and April were the prelude to his Mexico “corruption” hearings on May 13. Feigning concern for the effects of “flight of capital, flight of workers, and flight of drugs,” the senator insisted, “When we see the flight of drugs, we know . . . the corruption which always accompanies this breakdown of the social order in the producing countries. We know that corruption seldom comes in one kind, that disregard of the law in one area begets a general breakdown of freedom. . . . I have a feeling that, at the root of the problems we have been outlining, is the failure of the democratic system in Mexico.”

Also addressing the May 13 hearings was U.S. Customs Commissioner William von Raab, who testified that the governor of the northwestern state of Sonora, Felix Valdes, was not only protecting the fugitive drug trafficker and murderer Felix Gallardo in his home, but that he owned four ranches in Sonora state where opium and marijuana were cultivated. The U.S. consul in Sonora admitted to the Mexican press, “My government has no information available to back up in any way the allegations” made against Valdes, and offered an apology to the Sonora governor. Governor Valdes responded that he didn't own “a square kilometer of land in Sonora, much less four ranches,” and was considering filing a libel suit against von Raab for “political and personal damages.”

The May 13 hearings were but the open end of a two-day “Mexico-bashing” festival. The previous day, CIA and other officials of the U.S. intelligence community reportedly testified behind closed doors on the “massive” and “irrefutable” evidence of electoral fraud allegedly committed by the PRI party against the insurgent National Action Party (PAN) during last year's elections in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Nuevo León. The intelligence agents brought in their “experts” on Mexico who, according to some sources, included members of the PAN party and, according to Helms staffers, “did an excellent job.”

The Mexican government's angry demand for a Reagan administration explanation of the Helms-sponsored slanders of Mexico was a diplomatic hint of the very large storm

brewing in that country. A denunciation of the hearings was issued by the Mexican Congress and signed by all congressional representatives, except for the PAN whose spokesman, Jesús González Schmall, insisted weakly, “This is not interventionism.”

Mexican Labor Confederation (CTM) leader Rafael Riva Palacio declared, “The labor movement repudiates the methods of espionage and interventionism of certain sectors of the United States, and supports the government in its energetic protest.” Industrial leader Fernández Barajas said, “Mexican industrialists insist before the entire community that we are Mexican patriots first, and businessmen second, and that we are ready to defend Mexico with everything at our disposal.”

The governor of every Mexican state expressed his rejection of the Helms slanders. Querétaro governor Mariano Palacios Alcocer said that dignity could not be exchanged for economic health; Tabasco's governor González Pedrero said that national sovereignty was up for neither discussion nor sale; Tlaxcala's governor Tulio Hernández said that Mexico is “a neighbor, not a slave,” to the United States, and so on.

Worth underlining was the assertion by Mexican embassy spokesman Leonardo French that the Helms hearings served as a boost to the drug mafia. “By publicly criticizing the efforts of countries which share identical objectives in the area of combating narcotics, all it does is strengthen the position of the drug traffickers themselves. . . .” The semi-official Mexican daily *El Nacional* gave banner headlines to the story that “The United States promotes drug production with approximately \$118 billion each year. This is the amount which its 25 million consumers spend. . . .” Mexico's state-run television news network included a 10-minute report May 14 on how there are more than 600,000 hectares of illegal drugs cultivated on U.S. territory.

### **The drug-pushing PAN**

Not openly mentioned, however, is the fact that the biggest boost to the drug mafia provided by the Helms hearings was its virtual endorsement of the Nazi-communist PAN party's drive for power. Top leaders of the PAN party have been repeatedly charged with collaboration with the international drug mafia. It is a well-documented fact that the funds of PAN electoral campaigns are derived from the illegal-drug trade. Yet Helms said, “Is the PRI just like the Communist Party that runs Russia? . . . The PAN does not have the slightest chance to take over the country because the PRI will not allow it.”

Although criminal stupidity regarding our allies continues to reign in Washington, there are some dissenters. John Gavin, outgoing U.S. ambassador to Mexico who reportedly opposes the heavy-handed method of the Helms hearings, was quoted by wire services labeling the hearings “sanctimonious posturing” that does more harm than good and insisting that “corruption exists . . . on both sides of the border, wherever the merchants of slow death do their business.”