

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Nazi-Communists renew alliance

The Nazi right and Communist left in Mexico have again joined forces to try to sink the nation in chaos.

As the Aug. 13 summit of Presidents Reagan and De la Madrid in Washington neared, the political tensions triggered in Mexico by last month's state elections in Chihuahua and Durango worsened. The opposition National Action Party (PAN), in a renewed alliance with Mexico's communist PSUM and PMT parties, has escalated its violence.

Amid opposition threats of "mass uprisings," "revolution," and "the beginning of the end," the bloodshed has begun. On Aug. 9, one person was killed and 38 injured when supporters of the PAN and the ruling PRI party clashed; the opposition forces had tried to seize the state legislature in Durango as the Electoral College met to certify the state elections. Only the intervention of the Army prevented greater bloodshed.

The same day, the Mexican press published the "petition" of a group of U.S. senators to the Mexican government to "nullify the Chihuahua elections" and accept foreign supervision of upcoming elections. The same proposal had been made by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) during his notorious anti-Mexico hearings in Washington last spring.

The anti-government wing of the Catholic Church has also joined in. The pro-Marxist "Theology of Liberation" bishops Manuel Talamas of Ciudad Juárez, Adalberto Almeida of Chihuahua, and José A. Llaguno of Taramara put a paid ad in the press Aug. 9 calling for annulling the July 6 Chihuahua elections. Only days before, Bishop Almeida had given a press

interview to the press suggesting that the Mexican constitution be changed to permit participation of the clergy in politics, from which they were banned in the Reform Laws of 1858.

The same bishops were expressly forbidden by Pope John Paul II to suspend Sunday mass on July 20, when they had planned to support PAN attacks on the government.

The PAN protests were to culminate in a new bloody showdown with the government through the hunger strikes of Chihuahua Mayor Luis Alvarez and two other prominent PANistas who had proclaimed their readiness to die to force the government to annul the state elections.

As in July, the Vatican intervened against the rebellion, this time through a statement released to the press Aug. 7 by Papal Nuncio Jerónimo Prigione. He told the hunger strikers to end their protest. Said Prigione, "All life is sacred, and should be cherished like a gift." He added, "All martyrs are dangerous."

The hunger strikes were called off. However, Mexico's enemies have decided to revive an old card: the Nazi-Communist alliance. The Mexican left's amorous relations with the PAN had considerably cooled during the Chihuahua elections, when exposure of the PAN's alliance with Senator Helms and other members of the U.S. Congress against Mexico, made the PAN too hot to handle. However, the hunger strikes and prospects for new violence have brought the left opposition running back.

Heberto Castillo, pro-Cuban lead-

er of the PMT, whose testimony was used by the Helms hearings as evidence that Mexico is "not democratic," traveled to Ciudad Juárez to show his solidarity with the PAN hunger strikers and to invite them to form a front with the left to combat the government "dictatorship." It was reported that the meeting between the PAN mayor and Trotskyist leader began "with a warm embrace."

In Ciudad Juárez, the main leaders of the opposition parties immediately began to gather: Pablo Emilio Madero of the PAN; Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo of the Moscow-directed PSUM; Heberto Castillo of the PMT; Rosario Ibarra de Piedra of the Revolutionary Workers Party (who became well known, through the backing of the U.S. Heritage Foundation and Commission of Human Rights for her fight to find her son, who disappeared in the 1970s as a member of the 23rd of September Communist League); and Luis Sánchez Aguilar (of the extinct Social Democratic Party, which became famous in the early 1980s as a front for the FBI).

The objective of the North-South Summit Forum, as these forces dubbed it, was to create a National Democratic Movement "to achieve in 1988 a truly pluralist government." Product of this meeting was a Manifesto to the People of Mexico, published as a paid ad in the national dailies. It asserted that "the systematic violation of human rights and especially of the constitutional right of all Mexicans to elect their rulers, has reached intolerable limits in Chihuahua, Durango, and Oaxaca. . . . It is necessary and urgent that Mexicans of all ideological tendencies . . . join forces to guarantee that the Mexican people may elect their rulers through genuine elections, for which a reform of current electoral laws is imperative."