

## EIR International

# Drug traffickers go for a coup in Mexico

by Mark Sonnenblick and Hugo López Ochoa

The faction of the Mexican government which protects narcotics traffic and the holders of Mexico's \$100 billion foreign debt tried a "Halloween Massacre" against the patriotic faction which opposes them. The coup aimed to purge and intimidate all those resisting a surrender of sovereignty to the one-world institutions of drugs and monetarism. It was a leading edge of the drive to eliminate the institutions which protect the positive heritage of the Mexican Revolution.

The patriots aborted the coup attempt, leaving its orchestrator, Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett, exposed as a mafia-linked thug. While stabbing opponents in the back may help a Mexican presidential contender, failing and getting caught does not.

The battle for presidential succession will increasingly be fought over two immediate threats to Mexico: the manifest political power of international narcotics traffickers, and the economic disaster which President Miguel de la Madrid has brought by propitiating international bankers.

The massacre was initially directed against Samuel Ocaña García. As governor of the northern border state of Sonora from 1979 to 1985, he distinguished himself for his program in favor of accelerated industrial development. Thus, while International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities propelled most of Mexico into the worst depression in its history, Ocaña achieved an economic growth which makes the Sonorans proud. They still say, "We don't feel the crisis here."

Framing Ocaña on narcotics charges was first advocated by U.S. Customs Director William von Raab in hearings held

May 13 by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). The drumbeat was picked up and reiterated by Helms and the *New York Times*, much to the astonishment of Mexicans, who knew Ocaña to be the least likely politician to indulge in corruption. Whom does the sniveling Yale-graduate customs director work for? He was put in his job by Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan on Oct. 13, 1981. He almost lost his job after his slander of the Sonoran governor drove U.S.-Mexican relations to a new low. He was called to the White House, May 17. Witnesses saw him welcomed with open arms by none other than Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan, and he kept his job. *EIR* readers are familiar with the role as godfather to Dope, Inc.'s money laundering which Regan played during and after his presidency of the Merrill Lynch funny-money brokerage.

Ex-governor Ocaña's brother Gilberto confessed to charges of owning ranches on which small patches of marijuana had been found, the Mexican press trumpeted Oct. 29. The next day it quoted Ocaña saying he resigned his post as head of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in the neighboring state of Sinaloa and retired from politics. Both stories were lies.

According to *Ovaciones*, a daily favoring Ocaña, the pressures to get rid of him were repulsed by the new president of the PRI, Jorge de la Vega Domínguez. One of the Mexican officials with the best credentials as an anti-drug fighter, the Supreme Court president who had sentenced narcotics kingpin Alberto Sicilia Falcón, dispatched himself to Hermosillo, Sonora, to make sure brother Gilberto was not railroaded.

When Gilberto appeared in court Oct. 31, he did so armed with documentary evidence to prove that he had been framed, and the prosecution's "witnesses" testified that army officers had threatened to torture them if they did not sign pre-written affidavits against Gilberto Ocaña.

All over Mexico, in the Chamber of Deputies, in the national press, and in his home state, PRI patriots closed ranks to prevent the consummation of the "Watergate" against the ex-governor.

Crucial to this battle was the publication in Sonora's *Diario del Yaqui*, with front-page banner headlines of a declaration by the Mexican Labor Party (PLM), the fraternal party to Lyndon LaRouche's candidate's movement in the United States. The PLM reveals: "Narcotics traffic is consolidating a political force to make a coup d'état in Mexico" and Bartlett is apparently the man behind the coup. (See text, below.)

### **A \$12 billion 'threat to lend'**

Mexico is at a historical turning point. Under de la Madrid's IMF rule, 20 years of advances in living standards have been wiped out, leading to 100,000 totally unnecessary deaths from malnutrition yearly. The lack of markets and the high interest rates have caused massive layoffs and put 28% of manufacturing on the brink of bankruptcy. The economic structure is beginning to collapse as urban and rural producers simply stop producing. Both private and state industries are being handed over to foreign creditors one by one.

In return for promises of receiving a \$12 billion package of loans to keep the country performing on its foreign accounts, de la Madrid has agreed to accelerate these tendencies. The business daily *El Financiero* published Nov. 4 a long list of secret conditions signed with the World Bank as part of the package. They amount to dismantling state direction over the economy, imposing shock austerity, and letting speculators and foreign debt collectors snatch what they want.

The nationalist forces in Mexico are at the boiling point. Fidel Velázquez, the veteran leader of the labor sector, the Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), is almost in direct confrontation with the regime. Velázquez's statements are a reliable bellwether for the country's mood, although his actions have been to hold the ruling PRI party together at all costs.

The PRI has always been an alliance of divergent forces, operating under a set of unwritten rules which befuddle those outside the inner elite of Mexican politicians. In his desperate attempt to placate creditors to the North, de la Madrid is violating the rules of the game by destroying the social and economic basis of stability in Mexico and not conciliating or coopting the protests from every constituency of his party.

The bankers' aim is to isolate from state power the anti-austerity, nationalist PRI factions which represent the workers, peasants, and unemployed, the overwhelming majority

of the Mexican population. They realize that such major surgery could only be successfully performed by shattering the country's political institutions. As the *Wall Street Journal* argued Oct. 9, Mexico will have to be sent through chaos and even economic default and catharsis in order to bring about a new political order.

The prime vehicle is the National Action Party (PAN) and its partners, the Moscow communist party, now called the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM). The PAN candidate for the governorship of Sinaloa, Manuel Clouthier, roundly defeated in the Oct. 26 elections thanks to Samuel Ocaña's guidance of the state PRI, declared Nov. 4 that the United States should block new loans to Mexico. "We will have to make a national plan to overthrow the current regime. . . . My final objective will be to destabilize this government, the fruit of fraud, which has no right to govern us."

Clouthier's role as a traitor to Mexico is nothing new. His great-grandfather came there with Archduke Maximilian, who temporarily made Mexico part of the Hapsburg empire. What may seem novel is this arch-reactionary's overt alliance with Moscow to bring chaos south of the border. And what of the overt backing of the Mexico-bashers in the U.S. Republican Party and the State Department for the PAN and its "alliance for democracy" with the communists? In his Oct. 29 press conference claiming electoral victory for himself and PAN several mayoral candidates, Clouthier blamed Lyndon LaRouche and the PLM for news stories on sordid connections with the Mexico bashers which had cost him heavily at the polls.

A self-destruct operation is being run from inside the PRI under the title, "political reform." On Nov. 3 the President announced he was submitting legislation which would satisfy the incessant complaints from the North about "vote fraud" and a supposed lack of fair play towards the fringe parties. Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett will defend the bill in Congress Nov. 15. His strategy is rig the rules so that Moscow-run fringe parties hold half the seats in the Congress, thereby giving them veto power over public policy. No President would be able to rule without conciliating foreign interests.

This is but de la Madrid's latest concession to creditor pressures. The famous Mexico bailout was announced by Treasury Secretary James Baker in Seoul, 13 months ago. Not a penny has come through. In fact, the agreement "turned into a pumpkin" at midnight on Halloween, when private bank creditors failed to commit the 90% "critical mass" of their new money component under a deadline set by the IMF. The deal will be resurrected once again, and negotiations may well drag out eternally. The series of excuses for banker non-compliance is quite amusing. But it is certain that the loans promised to revive Mexico's economy and prevent a social explosion will never arrive. Labor leader Fidel Velázquez wryly noted Nov. 3 that the credits "were sent on a burro."

## PLM: What's going on with the drug traffic?

*National Executive Committee statement of the Mexican Labor Party (PLM), released on Oct. 31:*

The events of the past few days show that narcotics traffic is consolidating its political power in Mexico in order to make a virtual coup d'état.

On Tuesday Oct. 28, Gilberto Ocaña García, the brother of the former governor of Sonora, Dr. Samuel Ocaña García, was arrested and accused of narcotics trafficking. Supposedly, three hectares planted with marijuana were found on two ranches belonging to the ex-governor's brother. If that accusation were proven, the man accused should be tried for it. That is not the important thing.

On the "El Búfalo" ranch in Chihuahua, belonging to Rafael Caro Quintero, there were thousands of tons of marijuana which were being exported to the United States over a period of several months, without either state or federal authorities having moved a finger to "discover" the "ranchito" because there were important persons of politics and finance involved in protecting it.

No comparison can be made, given the size of the operation. However, in the [Ocaña] arrest, one can smell a rat. Ocaña's brother was arrested just hours after the state elections in Sinaloa, where Dr. Samuel Ocaña is the representative of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. Immediately, the press, obviously ordered by someone to attack Ocaña, makes a scandal, as if he were the drug trafficker! He was hit with this, he was slandered to destroy his political career and at the same time to give propaganda ammunition to the National Action Party, especially to Manuel Clouthier, the PAN's candidate for state governor, and his masters at the U.S. State Department to support their "protests" that there was "fraud" in the elections.

The PRI candidate for state governor, Francisco Labastida Ochoa, was also slandered so that he would give political concessions to the PAN and to the narcotics traffickers of the state of Sinaloa, who are on the loose *without anybody daring to do anything to them*.

There is no doubt that behind the political "maneuver" of the arrest of the brother of Dr. Samuel Ocaña, lies a plot to throw him out of national politics. Dr. Ocaña, who is not tied to any political or economic group, is a patriot, one of the few who remain in the current regime.

On the other hand, he has many powerful political enemies inside and outside the state of Sonora.

The doctor has several political enemies in the current Sonora government of Rodolfo Félix Valdez. In the Under-

secretariat of Interior there are others, led by Fernando Elías Calles Alvarez Morphy, a junior multimillionaire who is a political and family ally of ex-governor of Sonora, Carlos Armando Biebrich Torres, who is fixated on the idea of destroying Samuel Ocaña, because of the moral integrity which he showed in the face of the massive corruption Biebrich headed when he governed that state.

José Biebrich, alias "El Pepín," devoted himself to narcotics traffic when his brother Carlos Armando Biebrich was governor. For his illegal activities, he used a fleet of small planes which he had in the sierra of Sahuaripa, in the north-east of Sonora. But, what has been done about him?

It was shown that Arcadio Valenzuela, alias "Cayo," the former owner of Banpacífico, was a "launderer" of Caro Quintero's money. Nevertheless, he now has political influence in the state of Sonora. Absolutely nothing has been done to him.

Jaime Figueroa Soto, Sonora's main drug trafficker, who lives in the exclusive Pitic neighborhood of the state capital, Hermosillo, walks around completely free. And all of Sonora knows he's the state's main drug trafficker. What is worse is that, when he was arrested in February of this year, he was released hours later by one of the state's police forces.

In Sinaloa there are many accusations against Gov. [Antonio] Toledo Corro, his son Tony and his wife, and, however, he was protected. It is known that Governor Toledo Corro offered a political deal in exchange for not being arrested. When in March and April of this year, the Chamber of Deputies formed a commission to investigate accusations against Toledo Corro, the president of that commission, Deputy Fernando Ortiz Arana, defended Toledo Corro. If the political interests which Ortiz Arana defends were investigated, it would be found they are those of interior minister Manuel Bartlett Díaz. José Ortiz Arana, the former's brother, is director of Migration Affairs in the Interior Ministry, thanks to his friendship and political alliance with the head of that ministry.

Another walking free is Miguel Angel Félix Gallardo, the mafia chief who ordered the assassination of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar. Gallardo is related to former Sinaloa governor Leopoldo Sánchez Celis. All informed Sinaloans know that he is wanted by law enforcement agencies, but that he wanders freely through the state of Sinaloa without anybody touching him.

The same happens with Jaime Herrera Herrera in Durango. He is the country's most powerful heroin and cocaine trafficker. He was arrested by the army at the beginning of the year and released by a federal judge in return for a large sum or some order from above. The Attorney General's Office, had the judge investigated, but nobody has renewed pursuit of Jaime Herrera, due to his association with political groups like that of former state governor Armando del Castillo Franco.

We could continue with the list, and we will.