

Shadowy 'Chapultepec Group' formed to intimidate Ibero-American business

by Héctor Apolinar

On March 15 was announced the abrupt formation of the Chapultepec Group, made up of seven businessmen from various Ibero-American countries, with the explicit and sole purpose of combatting Ibero-American unity and keeping the Brazilian and Peruvian examples of how to solve the region's cancerous foreign debt problem, from spreading throughout the subcontinent.

At a press conference held at a Mexico City hotel, businessmen Julio Ligorria of Guatemala, Jaime Bengoechea and Jaime Morales Carazo of Nicaragua, Juan Antonio Widow of Chile, Oscar Alfredo of El Salvador, Augusto Blacker of Peru, and Gerardo Garza Sada of Mexico, stated that although Ibero-America's foreign debt has impoverished the debtors, they cannot "support the formation of a debtors' bloc" because it is "pure demagoguery." Peruvian Augusto Blacker was even more explicit, asserting that "it is necessary to wreck any common debtors' front." Instead he proposed that "what we have to do is unite as Latin Americans to make ourselves stronger internally and accept our errors" in managing the foreign debt. Mexico's Garza Sada went further and proposed the sale of nation-states as the solution to debt payment, saying that it is necessary that "governments reduce themselves and leave economic activity in private hands."

The emergence of the shadowy Chapultepec Group was announced on the final day of the First Ibero-American Business Forum held in Mexico City on March 11-13, sponsored by the Business Coordinating Council, big business's main political lobby in Mexico, Coparmex (the large employers association), the National Confederation of Chambers of Commerce (Concanaco), and CIPE, the International Center for Private Enterprise. Albeit CIPE did not present itself formally as promoter of the meeting, its invisible hand was ever present, under cover. The executive vice president of CIPE, William Archey, was one of the most acclaimed speakers.

CIPE is an affiliate of the U.S Chamber of Commerce, and is entirely funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the "legal front" of the shady Project Democracy guided behind the scenes by Lt. Col. Oliver North and a key group of government officials that form a "parallel" U.S. government.

Getting rid of mercantilism

The meeting rang with dissonant cries against the Ibero-American governments, blaming them for the foreign debt crisis, but without touching a hair of the creditor banks. The "businessmen" demanded from their governments more sacrifices and total payment of the foreign debt, cost what it may. Inaugurating the forum, the chairman of the Business Coordinating Council, Claudio X. González, appealed to the businessmen for collective suicide by insisting that "we have to be willing to pay the cost required for resuming growth. . . ."

González demanded going to the heart of the matter, and slashing at the root of "the mercantilist phase" in the economy, to be able to make all the "structural changes that are needed without delay or hesitation."

Although the meeting pretended to be about "business," it was clear that all the sessions were led by political and ideological leaders of the National Action Party (PAN) and its fronts, like the shock group known as Integral Human Development, which was formed from the vestiges of gnostic secret societies like the Unifying Guard of Ibero-America (GUIA) and the Unifying Movement of Renovating Orientation (MURO), known for its affinity with the anti-papal sect, Tradition, Family, and Property.

The PAN participated turbulently in the 1985 and 1986 elections, trying to stir violence and discredit the electoral process with twisted anti-democratic intentions.

Moreover, there are innumerable indications that the PAN is the "Mexican connection" to Irangate and received funds from the underground operation of Lt. Col. Oliver North. CIPE channeled large economic resources to Coparmex, which ended up financing the election campaigns of various Coparmex leaders who became PAN candidates. One who may have gotten such funds was Manuel J. Clouthier, ex-national chairman of Coparmex and PAN candidate for governor of the state of Sinaloa. Sources close to Clouthier claim he had a close political relationship with Don Regan, one of the main figures implicated in Irangate. Another PAN candidate for governor (of Chihuahua in 1986) and an ex-Coparmex official, Francisco Barrio, received the strong propaganda support of the U.S. and various CIA agents, sent on North's orders, according to revelations last November in the

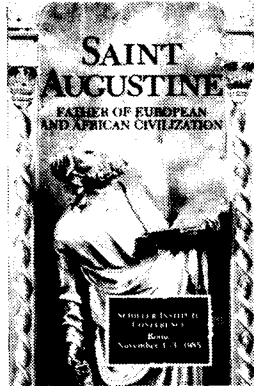
Miami Herald, and confirmed by unofficial Mexican observers.

One fact that appears to definitely confirm the ties of the forum with North's Project Democracy was the presence of Jaime Morales Carazo, member of the board of the National Opposition Union (UNO), an umbrella group of the Nicaraguan Contras. In June 1986, he apparently proposed a total alliance with the PAN to an UNO meeting in Miami, to make it the party in power in a few years. Morales is one of the closest cronies of Adolfo Calero, Jeane Kirpatrick, and others, for liaison operations between Mexico, Miami, and Honduras.

The real, anti-business purpose of the meeting was made clear by the PAN leader, Manuel J. Clouthier, when he threatened the actual businessmen who did not want to throw themselves into the collective suicide of political adventurism. Clouthier asserted that the "people of Mexico," i.e., the PAN, "does not forgive nor will it ever forgive those businessmen who negotiated with the political power that has been oppressing the majority." What this means, the PAN demonstrated in last year's elections when they blocked businesses, sacked private homes, spread slanders, harassed people by telephone, and verbally insulted and in some cases physically attacked businessmen who sympathized with the government or did not want to get involved in the PAN's adventures. This strategy was called by the PAN, "civic death."

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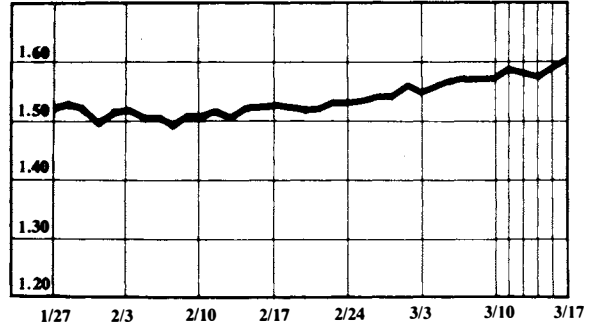
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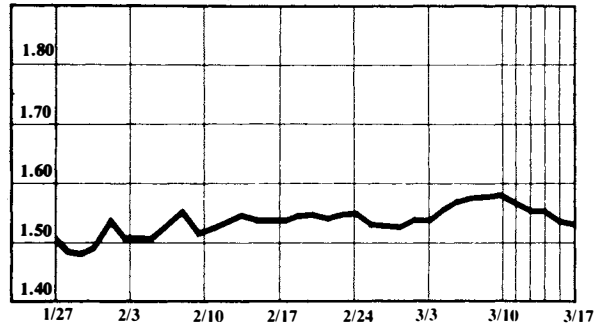
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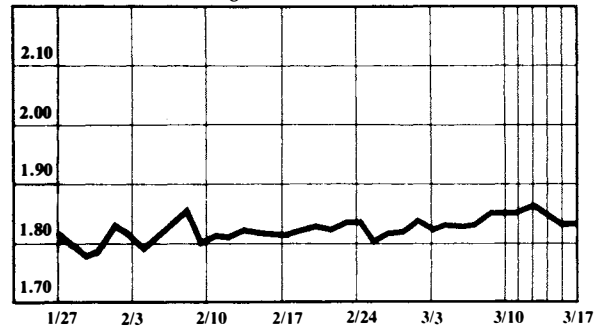
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