

Interview: Marivilia Carrasco



'My campaign inspires the patriots' of Mexico

by Hugo López Ochoa

In the course of her eight-month presidential campaign, Marivilia Carrasco has traveled through most of Mexican territory. Ever since the leader of the Mexican Labor Party (PLM) launched her candidacy in October 1987, half a million copies of her manifesto, "Do You Really Want to Know What to Do?" have moved the country. Weeks before last October's "Black Monday," Marivilia Carrasco warned that "we are on the edge of the greatest financial collapse of human history." Her campaign themes—debt moratorium and an Ibero-American Common Market; universal testing for AIDS; quarantine for AIDS sufferers and implementation of a high-level scientific program to combat the disease; the necessity of nuclear energy; and the need for a cultural and moral renaissance—are defining the voters' discussions in many parts of the country.

No doubt, the greatest impact of her campaign has been in the states of the interior. "A fluent speaker with witty answers," commented a columnist of *El Sol del Centro*, in the state of Aguascalientes, upon interviewing her. "She is a unique candidate," and he added: "Marivilia knows no borders, from the U.S.S.R. she flies to Colombia . . . taking advantage of an enviable memory for dates, names, and circumstances."

Another columnist, Carlos Moncada, of *Diario del Yaqui* in the state of Sonora, commented, "Mrs. Carrasco . . . pleasantly surprised us by her clear and intelligent focus on national problems." And Alfonso Valencia Ríos, of the magazine, *El Dictamen*, in Veracruz, writes, "With extraordinary fluency, but above all with a profound knowledge of world economic problems, she warned that we are on the brink of financial collapse."

Interviewed by the local television stations of Tijuana, Ensenada, Mexicali, Hermosillo, Ciudad Obregón, Aguascalientes, and Oaxaca, her impact has been important in the northern states.

"The people need hope," she told *Diario del Yaqui*, in a tour through Sonora, "and that is what my campaign represents." Among the seven parties contending for the presiden-

cy, the Mexican Labor Party campaign is the only one which does not have official party registration.

EIR interviewed Marivilia Carrasco at the end of her second campaign tour of the northwest states, which included Baja California Norte, Sonora, and Sinaloa, on May 20.

EIR: You are running for President on the Mexican Labor party ticket, and as I understand it, this is the first time in its 12-years history that the PLM has run for this office. Why are you running?

Carrasco: Well, to be precise, in these 12 years we became, for many Mexicans, the "party of the moratorium" on the debt, and of Ibero-American economic integration. My campaign has turned into a source of inspiration for patriots, on what has to be done. Within and without the government, in various parties, in the trade unions, among youth, a noble and higher response is expected from us.

We are a political and philosophical force which many patriots take as their reference point. Our programs and ideas do not need to be registered with the Secretary of the Interior; we have demonstrated that we can move the country, despite the pettiness which reigns in national politics. For example, our mobilization in defense of Panama's sovereignty. We succeeded in getting the main trade unions to raise their voices in defense of Panama; together with our fraternal organizations throughout the continent we have contributed to holding back the invasion, at least for the time being, and we turned the crisis ignited by the State Department and the White House into a hope for Ibero-American unity. The defense of Panama has been turned into a point of reality which intrudes uncontainably into Mexico, to call into question, as never before, those who have decided to crawl on their knees before the International Monetary Fund and the bankers.

We turned into a beautiful and noble cause, something which many nationalists considered a "practical" question of national security, which they did not want to get too mixed up in. It is on this level of program, that we are the leadership

of the present mass ferment. Many ask: "But you are not going to win, because you are not a registered party." "Well," I tell them, "our candidates' movement is not just for July 6, it is a permanent effort; it is not a movement that promises things, it is a movement that does now what the government and the other institutions are not doing. Perhaps we won't win the elections, but we will win the country."

I was very close to the two previous Presidents before the current one, and I grasped that power, real power, rests upon ideas, and not on the presidential chair or in the congressman's seat, in itself. I lived through the crises of 1976 and 1982, in which power was forcibly taken away from the President. Who took it? Power was in the hands of the ex-bankers, the television networks, the promoters of the drug traffic who controlled the minds of the citizens and convinced them that the Presidents of Mexico were thieves. This is the oligarchy which held power at those times and which has kept it for the intervening six years. So I ask myself, how will we get the power back? We will recover power with ideas. We will make sure that these ideas rule, before we are seated in the presidential chair.

The water programs

A regional expression of this method was the result of the last stopover of Marivilia Carrasco in the state of Sonora, where the Mexican Labor Party's program has had the greatest influence, ever since it was founded in 1976, with a program of moratorium on the foreign debt, an Ibero-American Common Market, the building of the Northwest Water Plan (PLHINO), and of course, nuclear energy to desalinate seawater. Her regional tour coincided with that of the candidate of the National Democratic Front, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, whose campaign has "been joined by patriots with whom I sympathize," Mrs. Carrasco stated on Radio XEDM in Hermosillo, the state capital, on May 11. No wonder then that "Cuauhtémoc," as he is popularly called, came out in favor of the PLHINO water plan. Cárdenas numbers in his ranks such outstanding regional political figures as Patricio Estévez, a National Democratic Front candidate for the Mexican Senate, and Cecilia Soto de Estévez, who is running for the local assembly on the same ticket. They jointly founded, with the Mexican Labor Party, the Pro-PLHINO Front.

On May 12, Marivilia Carrasco held a conference in Ciudad Obregón, another of the chief cities in Sonora, entitled "Political Leadership and the Program which the Nation Requires," before about 50 leaders of the PLM, the PARM (Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, one of the components of the National Democratic Front), and the ruling party, the PRI (Revolutionary Institutional Party). At the end of the meeting, the participants decided to publish an advertisement announcing the formation of the Northwest Section of the National Committee (CNDEN). This ad was published in the statewide newspaper *Diario del Yaqui*, under the headline "Not One Step Backward in Laguna Verde!"

"It gives an example of the programmatic mobilizations which citizens can undertake, independent of their party affiliation," observed Mrs. Carrasco. The ad stresses that "the possibility of broadening the agricultural frontier in the case of the northwestern regions of Mexico depends not only on the conduiting of water from the south to the north, but fundamentally on the desalination of sea water. The only affordable procedure to desalinate sea water is nuclear energy."

Among those making up the Northwest Section of the CNDEN are (affiliations for identification purposes only): Alfonso Gaxiola Cota, treasurer of the Northwest Peasant Alliance (CNC-PRI); Rafael Acosta Arvizu, local legislator (PARM); Ing. Carlos Gastelum Bejarano, candidate for mayor of Ciudad Obregón (PARM); Dr. Jesús Tirado Valdez, senatorial candidate for Sonora (PARM); Ignacio Mondaca Romero, senatorial candidate for Baja California (PLM); Juan Manuel Martínez, senatorial candidate for Baja California (PLM).

The CNDEN was founded in 1987 and is a nonpartisan organization which includes among its members university professors, scientists, and technicians from all over the country. Its national president is Cecilia Soto de Estévez, PARM candidate for the local legislature in Sonora.

Marivilia Carrasco met also with leaders of the Cárdenas Committee from the "Comarca Lagunera" agricultural region between Durango and Coahuila, where the PLM also has a great deal of influence, thanks to its program in favor of building the Gulf-North Water Plan (PLHIGON), to bring water from the southeast of the country up to that region, otherwise doomed to perish for want of water. "With your program, Cuauhtémoc [Cárdenas] will win the elections," the peasant leaders told her. "My campaign exists so that your hopes for water will not end in disappointment," Carrasco replied.

Ferment among students

Another key aspect of the Marivilia Carrasco campaign is her work among students. In Veracruz on the Atlantic coast, Oaxaca in the south, Nuevo León which borders Texas, Sonora, the Federal District where Mexico City is located, and Baja California in the far northwest, audiences of 100-300 students have gathered to hear her, and some of these have become campaign workers. At a conference at the Tijuana Technological Institute, previously addressed by the candidates of the National Action Party (Manuel Clouthier), the Mexican Socialist Party (Heberto Castillo), the Revolutionary Workers Party (Rosario Ibarra de Piedra), and the National Democratic Front (Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas), the student representatives stated that "none of the other candidates gave answers as broad and deep as you have," and above all that none had "made us think the way you did."

In Veracruz, an FM radio announcer used Mrs. Carrasco's statements given to the station weeks earlier, to grill the

environmentalists who appeared on the same program. In many parts of the country, activists of the ruling PRI party arrange for the Mexican Labor Party candidate to address their local base.

This is even seen in the ranks of the National Action Party, the PAN. In 1985, Mrs. Carrasco's PLM published a crucial book for that time, *The PAN, the Party of Treason*. Hundreds of former PAN sympathizers have discovered that it is a Nazi-communist outfit, contrary to its pretensions of Christian principles. The Augustinian philosophical perspective of the PLM candidate has been an effective antidote which attracts true Catholics formerly drawn toward the PAN.

This expression of political ferment in the country prompted us to ask the PLM candidate:

EIR: Given that the PRI has controlled the presidency for decades, do you think any other political party has a chance? Isn't the PRI seen by the population as the core of Mexico as a state?

Carrasco: The PRI which is running in these elections is not the PRI of past decades. The traditional Mexican system is a shambles. This is not only seen in the schism led by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, but in the universal repudiation of (President) Miguel de la Madrid's economic policies.

Despite the publicity campaign around the "success" of the last anti-inflationary shock program imposed in December 1987 under the euphemistic Economic Solidarity Pact, the truth is that the elections will take place in the middle of the devastating effects of this savagely recessionary program, designed in the image and likeness of the economic program of Hitler's Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, as its own defenders admit.

This is the first time that the results of a PRI administration are measured by the degree of regression, and not of progress, achieved. Wages have been depressed to the levels of 20 years ago; food production levels are at their lowest in 15 years; the nutritional level resembles that of the 1930s; employment is measured in the increase in the jobless rate. All this has cut the traditional support base of the government to shreds.

Still, we know that there is a deal between the national and international oligarchy to keep the PRI in power. In fact, spokesmen of the rotten feudal caste of Mexico like ex-bankers Agustín Legorreta and Juan Sánchez Navarro boast that they are already co-governing with the PRI and that, in fact, they have taken the reins of fundamental decisions, including the reorganization of the government after the elections, to cede positions to the free-trade sector of private business and its National Action Party.

We are dealing here with the same forces that under the aegis of Plutarco Elias Calles (1924-28), with the aid of the British Fabian Society and the Socialist International, tried to impose a national-socialist state in Mexico between 1924 and 1933, precisely in the framework of the Great Depression

of those years. The demented aim of Plutarco Elias Calles to fulfill the scheme of Teddy Roosevelt to eradicate Catholicism—what they call replacing the Age of Pisces with the Age of Aquarius—led the country into its second civil war of the century, the Cristero War. And now they intend to eradicate the Cárdenas-Juárez tradition from the established institutions. For sure, whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad. What they are doing is creating the conditions for a new civil war. Because if the PRI wins, it will win with the lowest vote of its history. I want to be precise in this: The most powerful nationalist machines are still inside the PRI. It is an open secret that they hope to gain "political space" with the votes which go to Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and the pro-moratorium parties. In this sense, also, my campaign is catalytic.

Only if the international financial Armageddon occurs before July 6, will Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas have a chance to win the election. If the financial collapse is later, but before the change in power on Dec. 1, President de la Madrid will have no choice but to adopt my economic program, or face the irreparable shattering of the institutions. It is in these circumstances that my program is a program for national unification.

EIR: What is your program for Mexico, and how is it being received?

Carrasco: My program is centered on regaining the country's economic sovereignty. My first act of government would be to abrogate all the decrees which this government has made since December 1982 and to restore, with some variants, the decrees of Sept. 1, 1982, when José López Portillo nationalized the banks, set exchange controls, and lowered interest rates. These points have been part of the governing program of the PLM throughout its 12 years of existence. Other candidates now agree with me on them.

The unique aspect of my program is that I am the only candidate who proposes an economy based on Mexico's incorporation into the nuclear era. This means, in immediate terms, that I am the one candidate who demands the immediate opening of the nuclear generating plant at Laguna Verde, Mexico's only such nuclear plant, while all the other candidates are rabidly against bringing it on-line. I am pleased to say that the plague of environmentalists has not spread as much among the Mexicans as the mass media want it to. In my speeches before hundreds of students, for example, a unique enthusiasm and fascination has presented itself for the Mars colonization project and the development of optical biophysics to find a cure to the threat of AIDS.

My campaign is to bring about the rebirth of cultural optimism and to crush the malthusian culture of the new Harvard and Sorbonne technocrats, and it can be summed up in the slogan which will circulate in my campaign poster during the last month of the elections: "Welcome, 120 million Mexicans by the year 2000!"