

## Dateline Mexico by Isaías Amezcua

### PAN party self-destructs

*A factional brawl inside the PAN could lead to a defeat of the "collaborationists" with the Salinas government.*

**O**n March 20, key leaders of the National Action Party (PAN) held a national press conference in Mexico to charge the U.S. Republican Party with financing and aiding a group within the PAN to seize control of the party and place it at the service of the Republican administration in Washington.

The denunciations were made by Pablo Emilio Madero, a former president of the PAN national executive committee, and endorsed by a powerful group of Catholic leaders within the party, including Jesús González Schmall, José Angel Conchello, Jorge Ortiz Gallegos, José González Torres, Gabriel Jiménez Remus, and 70 other national PAN leaders who are determined to prevent the party from falling completely under the thumb of PAN president Luis H. Alvarez.

In his March 22 response, PAN general secretary Abel Vicencio Tovar did not deny the charge, but assured the press that the matter was "closed and not under investigation." However, under grilling by the press, he admitted that the matter of foreign financing was under discussion at a national PAN assembly. But he insisted that the only aid received from foreign organizations were invitations to attend meetings of the International Democratic Union, with which the Republican Party is affiliated, and to attend courses on "civil resistance" in Panama in support of that country's puppet president Guillermo Endara. He also admitted that PAN members had been provided funds to attend "civil resistance" courses in the Philippines given by the group which overthrew Marcos.

Vicencio Tovar's brazen admis-

sions have not been investigated by police or national security forces because the PAN's current leadership, headed by Luis H. Alvarez, maintains a "strategic alliance" with the Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI) headed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The alliance was forged in October 1989 through a "letter of intent" signed by both Salinas and Alvarez, in which the PAN's 101 congressmen committed themselves to voting for a national electoral reform granting the government broad powers to control and censor all electoral processes. The PRI congressional bloc does not currently possess sufficient numbers of its own to reform the Constitution.

With the reform, President Salinas's continued reign is assured through electoral fraud. In exchange for PAN cooperation, Salinas agreed to hand the state of Baja California Norte to the PAN, which occurred in the fall 1989 state elections. The vote went to Ernesto Ruffo, current state governor and a close Alvarez ally.

On March 26, the group of PAN Catholic leaders around Madero told Mexico's *El Universal* that PAN international secretary Norberto Corella had been given 53 million pesos by the National Republican Institute for International Affairs to organize a meeting of affiliates of the International Democratic Union in Mexico City, which took place in July 1989. Independent media sources have confirmed to *EIR* that there exists documentary evidence that Alvarez and his group gets money from the Republican Party, evidence that will be made public shortly.

The outbreak of this battle within the PAN is related to the fact that the Alvarez forces are politically committed to a group of ultra-liberal financiers headed by businessman Eloy S. Vallina, himself the leader of the Chihuahua Businessmen's Association, known for its ties to a circle of Texas businessmen around George Bush. The Mexican state of Chihuahua shares a long border with Texas.

In 1982, when then President José López Portillo nationalized the private banks in Mexico, Eloy Vallina launched an insurrectionist political movement against the government, using Alvarez and Francisco Barrio as his battering rams. The next year, Alvarez and Barrio were elected mayors of the cities of Chihuahua and Ciudad Juárez, respectively. In 1986, Alvarez declared a hunger strike, which was publicized around the world through secret funding from Ollie North who maintained contact with Alvarez through CIA agents Sergio Americo Lastra and Ricardo Villaescalera. Both men met on several occasions with North's fundraiser, the homosexual Carl "Spitz" Channell.

In April 1987, the Mexican Labor Party charged that North was financing the PAN and a group of Mexican businessmen through Nicaraguan "Contra" Jaime Morales Carazo. The scandal triggered by the PLM denunciations had powerful repercussions inside the PAN, with the result that then PAN secretary general González Schmall decided to indefinitely suspend PAN member and Alvarez man Ricardo Villaescalera because of his ties to Channell.

On March 26, Alvarez threatened to expel Madero's followers if they continued to air these charges, making it clear that a total rupture between the two factions is imminent. Alvarez's star is on the wane, which won't make President Salinas happy.