

## Dateline Mexico by Jacobo Frontoni

### Trekking to the EZLN's lair

*The visits of Régis Debray, Danielle Mitterrand, and others are proof that the Zapatistas are a foreign operation.*

The scene speaks for itself: The aging guerrilla café-theoretician Régis Debray, erstwhile adviser to Che Guevara and to the late President of France François Mitterrand, travels to Chiapas to visit the headquarters of the terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), located only 10 kilometers from the border with Guatemala.

Accompanied by French film director Patrick Grandperret, Debray waits, with the studied patience of an existentialist philosopher. Suddenly, "Sub-Commander Marcos" enters the scene, galloping up on horseback, escorted by 12 extras.

In best Hollywood style, "Marcos" has prepared a "visual surprise" for Debray: a big burning of *milpas* (peasant cornfields). This, the press reports, "made the guest's jaw drop." Debray exclaims, "Not even in Nero's Rome!"

The press did not report in which language these representatives of two generations of French existentialist terrorists conversed, but they left no doubt about their existentialism.

While the flames added technicolor to the scene, "Marcos" explained to Debray: "Destruction is needed, so that there can be construction," although he did not clarify if it was on the basis of this theory, that he sent dozens of Indians to their death during the Zapatistas' debut, when he ordered them to attack a military barracks, at night, armed with only wooden rifles.

Debray declared the burning to be "a good symbol," and the EZLN to be "the true revolution of the revolution," a "vindication of everything we had dreamed of 30 years ago." At the height of his eloquence, Debray de-

clared "Marcos" to be "the new Che Guevara of Latin America." Would an Oscar follow?

(Debray did not mention what many remember, that a few days after his visit with Che in the Bolivian jungle, the Bolivian Army surrounded Che's encampment. Che passed on to a better life, but Debray returned to the café of Paris.)

Lest one forget, with all the aura of Hollywood surrounding the scene, the damage wreaked is real, and deliberate. So, too, the Marcoses and the Debrays are mere terrorist agents produced by such laboratories as Paris's Sorbonne (where Peru's Shining Path was born and "Marcos" studied), trained for the "profession" of terrorism under existentialist philosophers such as Louis Althusser.

Above them, however, are the controllers and protectors of terrorism. Such is the widow of the former President of France, Danielle Mitterrand, who arrived in Chiapas on April 18, right after Debray. She, too, met with "Marcos," and declared that, from the moment the EZLN made its appearance, she knew that "they were on the right path," and that, from the beginning, she had closely "followed these events."

From Chiapas, Mitterrand went to Cuba. But first, she reviewed some of the Chiapas projects financed by her Free France Foundation, one of the channels she uses to support various international narco-terrorist groups. Colombian journalist Rafael Nieto Navia, writing in the Bogotá newspaper *El Nuevo Siglo* on April 17, charged that "the French foundation which Mitterrand's widow runs, has

financially collaborated, since her husband was President, with the ELN [Colombia's narco-terrorist National Liberation Army], which it considers a legitimate national liberation movement."

Some might remember, also, that back in 1982, Debray's then-wife, Venezuelan anthropologist Elizabeth Burgos-Debray, introduced Mrs. Mitterrand to the leading international spokesman for the Guatemalan terrorist movement, Rigoberta Menchú, whom Mitterrand has protected ever since.

Mitterrand closed her visit to Chiapas with a real coup, which highlights the strategic objective of the recent influx of foreign visitors to the EZLN's Chiapas lair: By receiving foreign ambassadors, the EZLN seeks to establish itself as a de facto state within the State. On April 20, Mitterrand set a most dangerous precedent, intervening in Mexican internal affairs. In thorough disregard for national sovereignty, she attended, and spoke at, an official negotiating session between the government and the EZLN.

In her intervention, solicited by the Concord and Pacification Commission (formed by Congressmen from various political parties), and permitted by the government negotiators, Mitterrand instructed them that "the eyes of the world are upon this room."

So that there be no doubt of what she meant, she later told the head of the government negotiating team: "Today, the world has become very small. No longer can problems be resolved only between people of the same country; they are always resolved under the eyes of the whole world."

How long will the Mexican government continue to tolerate this foreign operation for limited sovereignty called the EZLN?