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## Fact Sheet: The Drug Certification Crisis

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# Great Britain plots to sink Washington into a Mexican quagmire

by Dennis Small

It used to be that knowledgeable people around Washington, D.C. would say, that if you wanted to know what Henry Kissinger would be saying on Thursday of any given week, you had to read the *Times* of London of the Tuesday before. Within two days, Kissinger would be mouthing the British line.

Today, the same could be said of the entire retinue of congressmen, media outlets, and other Washington “insiders” who march to the beat of the British drummer, many without even knowing it.

Take the case of the ongoing crisis in U.S.-Mexican relations, which has been orchestrated around the Clinton administration’s March 1 decision to certify the Mexican government of Ernesto Zedillo as fully cooperating in the war on drugs.

In its Feb. 22, 1997 issue, *The Economist* magazine, which infallibly speaks for City of London financial interests closely associated with the British Crown, argued that the Feb. 18 arrest of Mexico’s anti-drug czar, Gen. Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo, on charges of collusion with the narco-cartels, gave new credibility to a nightmare scenario of U.S.-Mexico warfare concocted by none other than Sir Caspar Weinberger, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, formerly secretary of defense in the Reagan years. Wrote *The Economist*:

“Imagine this. Mexico’s drugs barons grow so strong that they buy control of all levels of government. The United States, alarmed that instability might imperil investments or send millions of brown migrants northward, sends in its troops and sets up a puppet regime to ‘clean up.’

“Dream stuff? No, thinks Caspar Weinberger, once Ronald Reagan’s secretary of defence, who alerts Americans to such possibilities in a new book (*The Next War*, no less).”

The British intelligence outlet went on to complain, in its characteristic snide style, that the Clinton administration ought to decertify the Zedillo government in its upcoming March 1 decision, but that it probably would not do so, because “Mr. Zedillo has American support.”

In the month or so since they promoted the prospect of

open war between the United States and Mexico in the pages of *The Economist*, the British have unleashed everything in their power to bring that about. First, they tried to get Clinton to fall into the decertification trap, which would have triggered a wave of anti-American nationalism in Mexico on the eve of the U.S. President’s scheduled April 11-12 visit there. When that strategy failed, they turned to the U.S. Congress and media to do the job.

A campaign was mounted for a first-ever Congressional override of Clinton’s certification decision, which on March 13 won majority approval in the House of Representatives. Although there is less support in the Senate for a certification override, the mere tenor of the public debate is already threatening to trigger uncontrolled political explosions in Mexico:

- Senators are openly calling for “creating a crisis down there” in order to “get rid of that PRI,” Mexico’s ruling party.
- There are on-the-record exchanges about whether or not the United States should try to overthrow the Zedillo government.
- Specific demands are being made of Mexico, in writing, such as for U.S. forces to be allowed to engage in “hot pursuit” of drug-runners into Mexican territory—demands which it is known that Zedillo cannot possibly accept and stay in office.

Such “cowboy” proposals are calculated to provoke a nationalist outcry against the violation of national sovereignty, and are predictably doing just that. As the Mexican President warned on March 13: “That is where we draw the line. . . . Our sovereignty and dignity as a nation is not negotiable.”

In a few short weeks, the British, with the full complicity of Wall Street, have succeeded in provoking the most profound crisis in U.S.-Mexican relations in decades, which they now intend to parlay into uncontrolled social chaos in Mexico, and a quagmire which will entrap the United States as well. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns seems to have gotten a smell of the operation, as he told the press on March

5: "We're involved in a life-or-death battle for the security of both Mexico and the United States in the drug war."

### The British line on Mexico

As if on cue, every British agent of influence in the political world and the media on both sides of the Rio Grande—and a sizeable number of dupes and opportunists to boot—have begun spewing out a packaged line on Mexico, which is designed to force this policy through. The "line" is made up of some combination of four principal myths, and attached policy proposals, which are attired in either leftist or rightist rhetoric, as the occasion requires. They are:

**Myth #1:** Mexico is a thoroughly corrupt, autocratic society, dominated by the dictatorial ruling party, the PRI, which must be smashed if the country is ever to have democracy and progress.

**Myth #2:** The institution of the Presidency is instrumental in preserving the undemocratic status quo, and must therefore also have its wings clipped.

**Myth #3:** The Mexican Army is heavily involved in human rights violations and in the drug trade, and should not be allowed to have a major role in national life.

**Myth #4:** Mexico is guilty of massive overpopulation, and has to be forced to deal with this problem, rather than sending surplus labor across the border to the United States. As Rockefeller agronomist William Paddock put it many years ago: "Shut the border and watch them scream."

If implemented, these policies would lead within months to a chaotic breakdown of Mexican society, followed by a probable takeover by a "narco-nationalist" government similar to the Samper regime in Colombia today—or worse. The British-sponsored Zapatista insurgency, and other indigenist separatist movements like it, would have the run of the country. The drug cartels and their political front-men would wrap themselves in the banner of "narco-nationalist" opposition to "Yankee imperialism." War lords would seize chunks of the national territory, each with their private armies. And Mexico's 2,000-mile border with the United States would become a virtual war zone: Growing violence would spill over into the United States; drug and arms traffickers, as well as related youth gangs, would spread on both sides of the border; illegal immigration would skyrocket; and lawless armed self-defense groups would spring up overnight on the U.S. side of the border, not to mention growing calls for officially shutting the border militarily.

In short, the movement to overthrow Zedillo in the name of "democracy" and "human rights," will actually usher in a narco-dictatorship that threatens both countries. Zedillo, it should be recalled, was democratically elected in 1994 by an overwhelming majority of Mexicans, in elections which even international observers were forced to admit were fair and legitimate. It is those who are engaged in the plot to overthrow President Zedillo, who are bent on undoing democracy in Mexico.

### Bush and Salinas

When one looks more closely at the political networks promoting these policies inside both countries, as we do below, one consistently finds the footprints of two ex-Presidents: George Bush (1989-93) and Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-94).

In fact, it would not be far off to say that the current British gameplan for the United States and Mexico, is to pick up on the unfinished agenda of the Bush-Salinas years, which was lamentably interrupted by the Clinton and Zedillo Presidencies, and worse still, by their cooperation against drugs—or, so think the British.

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Recall that it was George Bush's networks which introduced crack cocaine into the black ghettos of the United States, as part of his Contra drug-running operation. Recall that it was under Salinas that Mexico became the preferred transshipment route of Colombian cocaine heading to the United States, and that his brother Raúl is currently facing criminal charges for running a multimillion-dollar protection racket for Mexico's drug cartels.

And recall that it was Bush and Salinas's North American Free Trade Agreement whose "free trade" and deregulation features opened up both economies fully, especially Mexico's banking system, to takeover by the drug cartels.

Salinas not only carried out London's "economic reforms" for Mexico; he began to execute its "political reforms" as well. His administration moved to dismantle the traditional base of the PRI, and to replace it with drug-runners, narco-terrorists, and other corrupted groups organized in his fascist Pronasol apparatus—which became the breeding ground for the Zapatistas, among others, as we have extensively documented elsewhere.

When he left office, Salinas's sponsors rewarded him with a post on the board of directors of Dow Jones, publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*. Their preferred candidate to succeed Salinas, and finish off this project, was the one-worldist agent

and George Soros ally, Manuel Camacho Solís. But Luis Donaldo Colosio was selected as the PRI Presidential candidate instead—and was shot dead in the middle of his campaign, in March 1994.

Despite every effort by Camacho to replace the conveniently departed Colosio as the PRI's Presidential candidate, Zedillo was named instead, and he was inaugurated as President of Mexico in December 1994.

At first, the British hoped to use Zedillo to finish off their project, or, to at least look the other way and allow the Salinas machine to keep running the country for them. But Zedillo apparently had a different agenda, as did Bill Clinton, and things began to turn sour for the Bush-Salinas cartel, as the following highlighted events indicate.

**February 1995:** Raúl Salinas de Gortari, the former President's older brother, was arrested and charged with murdering a former head of the PRI party.

**March 1995:** After weeks of histrionics, including a purported "hunger strike," Carlos Salinas fled the country in disgrace, taking up residence in Havana, Cuba, and eventually Dublin, Ireland.

**November 1995:** A major international scandal erupted over evidence of Raúl Salinas's laundering of hundreds of millions of dollars of drug money into Swiss and other secret bank accounts.

**January 1996:** The Zedillo government captured Gulf Cartel capo Juan García Abrego, and within hours expelled him to the United States, where he was wanted for drug-running crimes. On Oct. 16, 1996, he was convicted on 22 counts of trafficking, and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

**February 1996:** Carlos Salinas flew in from Cuba to meet in the Bahamas with his old partner in crime, George Bush, and Bush's former treasury secretary, Nicholas Brady.

**May 1996:** Carlos Salinas met in his Dublin home with old ally Manuel Camacho, and PRI-basher Jorge Castañeda (see below), to map out their joint political comeback in Mexico, with U.S. support.

**August 1996:** The *San Jose Mercury News* printed an exposé of Contra cocaine running in the United States, which rapidly became a national scandal, involving George Bush's direct oversight of the operation.

**October 1996:** Zedillo said "no" to a central element of London's economic strategy for Mexico: the full privatization of the petrochemical sector.

**December 1996:** Zedillo said "no" to a central element of London's political strategy for Mexico: the granting of "indigenist autonomy" to the Zapatistas, which would have shattered Mexico as a unified nation, and which Zedillo rightly denounced as "segregationist."

**January-February-March 1997:** All hell breaks loose, orchestrated by London, to topple the Zedillo government and sink Washington into a Mexican quagmire.

## Meet London's (bilingual) mouth: Jorge Castañeda, Jr.

by Gretchen Small

Less than 48 hours after President Clinton announced the certification of Mexico, the *Washington Post* was publishing a diatribe against the decision, in its Sunday, March 2 "Commentary" section. The author was Jorge Castañeda, Jr., a former Mexican Communist Party member who now serves as spokesman and tactician for Fidel Castro's continental Jacobin gang, the São Paulo Forum.

"There they go again," Castañeda complained. "By certifying that Mexico is fully cooperating with the U.S. on drug enforcement, the Clinton administration has shown that it intends to pursue long-standing American policy toward Mexico, no matter how obsolete. Given the choice of propping up the PRI regime, whatever the cost or consequence, or risking a transition which would put an end to the PRI's 75 years of one-party rule, Washington will always choose the first option."

Since the January 1994 Zapatista uprising in Chiapas, in particular, Castañeda has become a familiar name in the international media, regularly trotted out as a leading "authority" on Mexican events. In 1996, the "leftist" Castañeda was catapulted into prominence in the debate over U.S. policy toward Mexico, by the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the American branch of Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs. The July/August 1996 issue of the CFR's *Foreign Affairs* magazine, the banking establishment's flagship journal, published an article by Castañeda, "Mexico's Circle of Misery," which elaborated the shift in United States policy toward Mexico advocated by these London circles, to wit: that the United States abandon the view that Mexico's stability is a matter of its own national security, and, instead, adopt the policy that chaos in Mexico is not only tolerable, but, in fact, necessary, to bring about "reforms" there.

Castañeda's *Foreign Affairs* piece was built around three basic arguments.

First, that a solution to Mexico's dire economic and political crisis requires the replacement of its "authoritarian political system" with a "new order" and "reworked social contract." Few specifics are given as to the shape of this proposed new order, other than that it must include "a draconian birth control program" and a "comprehensive political opening" for "civil society" (indigenous, civic groups, etc.). Castañeda