

## Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

### 'Royal Dutch Samuel'

*Apostate bishop Samuel Ruiz admits that a resources grab is behind the EZLN's separatist strategy in Chiapas.*

**T**he real commander of Mexico's Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), apostate bishop Samuel "Samiel" Ruiz, has finally admitted what lies behind the narco-terrorist group's demand for "reform of the state," and territorial and political "autonomy" for Mexico's indigenous people: a plan to grab the oil resources in Mexico's rich southeast, and in the state of Chiapas in particular.

Ruiz, the bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, admitted this in an interview with the Argentine daily *Página 12*, on Feb. 4. In doing so, he confirmed what *EIR*, and the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) have charged over a period of years: that the Zapatistas are nothing more than a tool of the British Empire, seeking to balkanize Mexico, and to seize the oil and other natural resources in the region.

In the *Página 12* interview, Ruiz complained about the Zedillo government's refusal to accept the concept of territorial autonomy for Indians, which would include the "use and enjoyment" of resources. "Mexico's Constitution," he argued, "says that [natural] resources belong to the nation. That is, if there is oil beneath the land you buy, this is national patrimony—it's not yours. Of course, this is not the only possible interpretation. . . . *On the issue of resources, the situation has yet to be legally defined.*"

In other words, Ruiz is calling for violating the Constitution, to allow foreign interests to seize the resources found in the subsoil. As a result of this admission, rumors have begun to

spread that Ruiz's real name is "Royal Dutch Samuel," and that he has founded a new religious order, "the Seven Sisters."

The EZLN's electoral arm, the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), of which Mexico City Mayor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas is a prominent leader, has joined the Zapatistas on this issue. On Jan. 21, PRD Federal Deputy Gilberto López y Rivas told reporters that one of the obstacles to resolving the Chiapas conflict, is the "government's obsession with having unfettered control, without Indian opposition, over Chiapas territory where there is oil and uranium."

The perennial drunk, Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, head of the PRD's Congressional bloc, went even further. According to the Jan. 26 edition of *Reforma*, he spoke of "Mexico's international commitments," which supposedly allow "Indian peoples and municipalities to participate in decisions regarding the subsoil."

In the terminology of the oil industry, if the effeminate San Cristóbal de las Casas bishop is "refined" enough to carry out treason, Muñoz Ledo is certainly "crude."

On Jan. 24 in Kanasin, Yucatán, President Ernesto Zedillo responded to the narco-terrorists' offensive. He offered to restart the stalled peace negotiations with the EZLN, and accept "juridical and legislative changes which broaden the participation and political representation of indigenous people, on a local as well as a national level, respecting their diverse situations and traditions, and strengthening

a new federalism in the Mexican Republic." Zedillo also promised more state support for building infrastructure, and providing education and health services. But, he also drew a line in the sand: The State "can never accept interpretations which threaten sovereignty and national unity," he said.

Two days later, a full-page ad bearing the Presidential seal reiterated these points, adding that "never has any problem or conflict among Mexicans been resolved by foreigners, or from abroad." This was an obvious reference to the PRD's treasonous calls to bring the United Nations into Chiapas to mediate.

As for the issue of indigenous "uses and customs" in creating their own form of government, the President's ad emphasized that the nation "cannot accept anti-democratic or authoritarian forms of government, or fanaticism." It is elements of barbarism in some Indian customs, such as stoning and torturing prisoners, or religious or political opponents, which the EZLN is most interested in protecting. But, Zedillo said, the government "cannot accept privileges which exclude [people], or denigrate minorities."

The Mexican President effectively indicated which forms of Indian self-government can be tolerated, and which will be rejected by the ruling PRI party's Congressional bloc, because they would lead to the country's disintegration. Mexico is therefore at a decisive juncture, polarized as a result of the horrible Dec. 22 massacre of 45 Indians in Acteal (Chiapas), apparently committed by opposition groups. Following this, the Army intensified its efforts to disarm paramilitary groups, including the EZLN. As Defense Secretary General Cervantes put it, there will be "no exceptions" to the disarmament process.