

Where Are Castañeda's Checkstubs From Soros?

by Ru ben Cota Meza

“Show me George Soros’s checks to my campaign! Show me that this financing exists, and I’ll give you the money,” Jorge Castañeda Gutman declared in a fit of anger to a member of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) who had challenged him, before several hundred youth, on the fact that mega-speculator and drug-legalization promoter George Soros is sponsoring his candidacy for the Mexican Presidency. The confrontation occurred during Castañeda’s first public campaign event, held in Mexico City on March 28, the day after he formally threw his hat into the ring for the 2006 Presidential elections.

Four days later, Castañeda defiantly repeated his promise to hand over the money, if someone could prove he received financing from outside Mexico—adding that he would then quit the race, as well. This time he was responding to Sen. Manuel Bartlett, a leader of the PRI party faction which has thus far successfully blocked structural reforms demanded by Wall Street. Speaking March 31 at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Le n, Bartlett had called Presidential candidate Castañeda very “nationalist”—a nationalist of the United States and the multinationals which support and fund him, that is.

Wall Street’s Fair-Haired Boy

It was an inauspicious beginning for a Presidential campaign in a nation where nationalism still runs deep in the citizenry, despite more than two decades of largely foreign-run governments. Mexico has had some bad Presidents over those 20 years, but the project to install Castañeda as Mexico’s chief executive goes beyond anything seen yet. Castañeda is not only promoted by one of the most hated drug legalizers running world finances today, George Soros. He is also campaigning in favor of Harvard professor Samuel Huntington’s call for a war against Hispanics! Since Huntington’s racist thesis was published in the April/May issue of *Foreign Policy* (see *EIR*, March 12)—a thesis correctly denounced by various prominent Mexicans as outright “fascism”—Casta eda has written not one, but two articles published in newspapers and magazines across the United States, promoting Huntington’s thesis. “Samuel Huntington is a distinguished scholar who always addresses important and timely issues,” Casta eda wrote; his article “certainly has contributed to this necessary debate in Mexico and in the United States.”

Sovereignty is, for Casta eda, an outmoded idea, which

Mexico must give up—as he stated repeatedly during his two years as Secretary of Foreign Relations for President Vicente Fox (December 2000 to January 2003). It was on such grounds that he argued Mexico had to back U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's war against Iraq.

Castañeda is more despised than admired within Mexico, but those who dismiss his campaign as insignificant on those grounds, fail to understand what they are up against. Castañeda's support for Huntington's campaign to make Hispanics into the new enemy in the United States, merely typifies his designated role as the front-end of the international fascist financiers' plot to destroy Mexico. The explicit premise of his campaign, is that Mexico's institutions and parties must be ripped apart, if the final stage of Wall Street and IMF looting "reforms" is ever to be imposed. Castañeda's campaign itself, is the financiers' wrecking ball against those institutions.

The LYM's months-long campaign exposing Castañeda as an agent of George Soros, however, is causing him problems. Soros himself has joined the effort to deny their ties: "It is not true, absolutely not, that I am financially backing the political career of Mr. Castañeda," Soros told the Notimex press agency on Jan. 25, in Davos, Switzerland. He added, however: "I have a lot of respect for Mr. Castañeda. When I was thinking about creating my foundation [in Mexico], I thought of him. We had some conversations," but Castañeda decided to participate in the Presidential elections, and "our discussions ended."

This was the only time that George Soros had thought about "George" Castañeda, whom he has often kept in mind. Andrés Rozental Gutman, half-brother of Jorge Castañeda Gutman and one of the principal political managers of his Presidential campaign, in his second quarterly report as president of the Mexican International Affairs Council (COMEXI), announced that he had "initiated contacts with George Soros's Open Society Institute, to participate in an interesting project on democracy in Mexico," the which would indicate that perhaps Soros had not told the whole truth when he said "our discussions ended." Intermediaries, such as Rozental, abound.

COMEXI was founded in 2002 by Rozental as a "counterpart institution" of New York City's Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), which has served as an outpost for City of London interests in the United States for decades. On Jan. 29 of this year, the CFR invited Castañeda to inaugurate its new "HBO History Makers Series" in New York. It turned into an unabashed campaign event, aimed at mobilizing Castañeda's real political base: Wall Street. "We couldn't have found anybody more interesting to begin this series with than Jorge Castañeda, who has made history in the past, and hopes to make history in the future, I think, in Mexico," investment banker and former Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson said by way of introduction. In concluding the event, Aronson added: "I don't know whether Jorge will decide to seek a political career in Mexico, but I think if he does, the

Mexican people will be greatly benefitting from the kind of candor and thoughtfulness that we've heard tonight." Castañeda, he said, is one of those "authentic voices and voices that can think in new and creative ways," for which Aronson thinks democratic societies are "hungering."

The Toledo Precedent

But, what is George Soros' "interesting project" for Mexico? So far, we don't know its details. What would be "interesting" would be for Castañeda and his half-brother, in the interest of of "transparency," to report upon what they are getting into with Soros. What can be known indirectly, however, is what George Soros already did in Peru—among other countries—where he contributed decisively to bringing the drug legalization mafia of Alejandro Toledo to power. Soros met with Toledo in June 2000, at an international conference on "democracy" in Warsaw, and personally gave the Peruvian then-candidate for President \$1 million, to finance his July 2000 "Four Corners March." That march, billed as a "peaceful protest" against the inauguration of then-President Alberto Fujimori's third term in office, turned into an orchestrated mob assault, which left several buildings burned and six people dead.

When the fact of the meeting became public, Toledo admitted to taking Soros' million, but insisted that it was for "the struggle to defend democracy" in Peru, and not for his electoral campaign, "which would be illegal."

Drug Legalization, Soros, and Castañeda

In November of 2000, several days before the first PAN government in modern Mexican history—that of Vicente Fox—was inaugurated, the book *Chile and Mexico, Two Transitions Face to Face* was released in Mexico. In that book, edited by Chilean Ambassador to Mexico Luis Maira, Jorge Castañeda wrote several foreign policy recommendations for the Fox government. Among these, he proposed a "great campaign" like the one which brought about NAFTA, to get the United States to drop the policy of "certification" of nations in the war against drugs; and to find "a new focus" toward drugs, with "long-term decriminalization of certain currently illegal substances" and "the use of market mechanisms to lessen the damage from the prohibition of the drug trade." In other words, drug legalization.

Interviewed last Nov. 28 on this question by the newspaper *La Jornada*, Castañeda declared that "I said this in U.S. forums, along with very conservative figures such as Milton Friedman and George Soros," and he reiterated that the drug trade must be seen "in a more flexible, modern, and up-to-date way."

The pro-drug legalization argument, that the war on drugs produces greater damages than abuse stemming from its consumption, is stated by George Soros in an Open Letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, published by the Lindesmith Center in a June 1998 edition of *The New York*

Times. The letter was signed, among others, by Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi, who two years later became undersecretary in Castañeda's Foreign Affairs Ministry in the Fox government.

In 1992-94, George Soros created his Open Society Institute and, through it, created the Drug Policy Foundation and the Lindesmith Center, the latter headed by Ethan Nadelmann. Soros has channeled more than \$15 million into activities focused on drug legalization. In an article signed by Soros and appearing in the Feb. 2, 1997 issue of *The Washington Post*, he wrote: "I was delighted this past November when voters in California and Arizona approved" the ballot initiatives for which "I personally contributed approximately \$1 million. . . . The California initiative legalized the cultivation and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The Arizona initiative went further, allowing doctors to prescribe any drug for legitimate medical purposes. . . . I tried marijuana, and enjoyed it."

While serving as Fox's foreign secretary in October 2002, Castañeda hosted Ethan Nadelmann who—according to Dan Feder of the electronic newspaper *Narco News*—"spent two days in private meetings at the foreign ministry." Nadelmann is Soros' man for internationally coordinating pro-drug legalization forces, and was "responsible" for the publication of the June 1998 "Open Letter" to Annan.

A few weeks before Nadelmann's Nov. 20, 2002 visit, Castañeda had been the main speaker at a dinner given by Soros' Open Society Institute in New York. Soros invited him to speak before the group called "Donors for Global Involvement."

Castañeda is also on the board of directors of Human Rights Watch (HRW), an organization also heavily funded by Soros. Within this organization, Castañeda is, along with Soros, on the Advisory Committee for Latin America. HRW-Americas is dedicated to fighting the violation of human rights supposedly committed by forces fighting "to limit the international drug trade." That is, HRW-Americas attacks governments that fight drugs.

With all this public evidence of how George Soros is sponsoring the "interesting project on democracy in Mexico" to which Castañeda's brother refers, is it really necessary to see the checkstubs? These will undoubtedly turn up, just as Soros' million dollars to Alejandro Toledo did.

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