

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

New low point in U.S.-Mexico relations

An ABC-TV program raises wide suspicions among Mexicans as to what the United States is up to.

I would have never expected that a single television documentary program could become the central issue in U.S.-Mexico relations. But that is precisely what a July 25 ABC-TV documentary has provoked.

As I reported to you last week, ABC's "Mexico: Times of Crisis" program told Americans that bloody Iranian-style revolution is about to sweep Mexico. "Mexico is not immune to the upheavals of Central America," ABC gloated.

Mexicans' outrage has been phenomenal. As columnist Manuel Buendia asserted in *Excelsior* July 29, the program attempted to convince Americans that "a U.S. [armed] intervention should occur soon under the pretext that our economy is falling apart."

In a column July 30 in the daily *El Sol*, Chao Ebergenyi, a columnist close to government circles, commented that U.S. analysts "have the serious problem of looking at the world as they would like it to be. . . . Iran could hardly compare to Mexico. . . . We don't have holy wars; neither do we suffer from Ayatollahs."

Ebergenyi wonders whether the people behind ABC are "the promoters of Global Genocide 2000," the report advocating depopulation by U.S. Malthusians under the Carter administration.

On July 29, ABC-TV renewed its attack, devoting 20 minutes of its "20/20" show to the former head of the Mexican security police, calling

him a "high government official who would have been happy in Nazi Germany." ABC charged that the official, Nassar Haro, is a symbol of Mexican corruption and indifference to justice.

A preliminary look at ABC's corporate composition indicates that Ebergenyi may be on target. The network is run from the top by the old Joseph Kennedy-Meyer Lansky organized-crime machine.

Represented on the board of directors of ABC are banks such as Schroeder, which took such a prominent role in bringing Adolf Hitler to power; as well as Lazard Frères and Morgan, known for their financial warfare against Mexico since the 1920s.

Intersecting the ABC propaganda is specialized propaganda being circulated among U.S. businessmen. One of the foulest "Iranization" shots is a recent two-page document by the Massachusetts-based "Probe International" intelligence outfit. Titled "A Comparison Between Mexico in 1981 and Iran in 1976," the document lists a series of "revolution-making" factors. "Disaffected students: Iran, yes. Mexico, not visible; large military: Iran, yes. Mexico, not yet; inequitable distribution of wealth: Iran, yes. Mexico, yes," etc.

ABC is now responsible for having brought U.S.-Mexico relations to their lowest point since the times of the zero-growth administration of Jimmy Carter.

"As a Mexican, I am worried

and outraged at the ABC program," Francisco Galindo Ochoa, President López Portillo's press spokesman, told a group of U.S. officials at a highly tense meeting July 28. Attendees included Charles Wick, head of the State Department's International Communications Agency (USICA).

According to press accounts here, while Wick talked about the "excellent" relations between the United States and Mexico, Galindo abruptly interrupted to remind him of "the hostile attitude toward Mexico coming from U.S. dailies, magazines, which this program has increased."

According to *Excelsior* columnist Joaquin López Doriga, the ambassador, John Gavin, who disgracefully appeared on the ABC program to endorse claims that the Central American turmoil could soon undo Mexico, has explained to government officials that his statements were taken out of context and has expressed quite "strong" words about the ABC producers.

In a letter to Galindo Ochoa published in the press here July 30, U.S. Embassy spokesman Stan Zuckerman takes a brutal snipe at those "who see a proof of a great campaign of slanders in every hostile note."

The same day, the ultra-leftist daily *Uno mas Uno* commented that after all, there was some truth in the ABC "Iranization" special. In the same edition the paper called on disaffected workers to protest recently decreed price increases in basic products.

This convergence of opinion between radical outlets and U.S. officials has not escaped government leaders here.