

Mexican LYM Addresses Flood Catastrophe

We publish above the text of the leaflet written and being widely circulated by the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Mexico, addressing the ongoing flooding disaster in the poverty-stricken states of Tabasco and Chiapas, in southern Mexico. It is currently estimated that 1 million of Tabasco's 2 million inhabitants have been affected by the flooding, and there are 70,000 victims in neighboring Chiapas. Close to 90% of Tabasco, and its capital city of Villahermosa, is under water.

The situation in Villahermosa is so dire that the state Government Secretary Humberto Mayans has warned of a "very high risk" of social crisis and riots like those that occurred after the 1999 floods. Today there are 100,000 people wandering around, who have lost everything. The threat of the outbreak of disease is great, as there is no potable water or sanitation services.

Mexico's pathetic free-marketeer President Felipe Calderón has had the audacity to say that "climate change" is the cause of the flooding disaster. Tabasco's Governor, Andrés Granier, quickly disabused him of that lie, charging that the tragedy is the result of years of disinvestment in infrastructure. Governor Granier pointed out that, had projects scheduled for completion last May been finished, "there would have been damage, yes, but not the catastro-

phe we are now suffering." This would require, minimally, an investment of 6 billion pesos, the Governor said, yet the federal budget has allocated only a pathetic 387 million.

Mexican engineer Manuel Frías, an expert in water-management and flood control, underscored the criminality of Calderón's position even more dramatically. Frías told *EIR* that at the time of the 1999 floods, he proposed the specific infrastructure projects that were required, and warned that were they not built, any future flooding would be "a catastrophe." The current rainfall in the region is no worse than in 1999, he reported. It is the *infrastructure deficit* alone that is responsible for the current disaster. Only a global, integrated, and properly financed program can solve the problem, Frías said.

Adding its voice, Mexico's College of Civil Engineers published a study Nov. 7, stating that more than 20 billion pesos is required for investment in crucial water infrastructure projects in both Tabasco and Chiapas, with special emphasis on the "integral management" of the Grijalva and Usumacinta river basins, as well as the diversion of both rivers. In the last 50 years, only four dams have been built on the Grijalva River, while no flood-control projects exist on the Usumacinta River. The overflow of 16 rivers in Chiapas led to flooding of 30 municipalities, and mudslides that threaten entire towns.

The LYM leaflet is dramatically illustrated with matching photos of the flooding in post-Katrina New Orleans, and of flooded Tabasco today, as well as maps of the integrated water management projects for Mexico—the PLHINO and the PLHIGÓN—and the World Land-Bridge

—*Cynthia Rush*