

Mexican 'greenies' surface in a drive against nuclear energy

by Elsa Ennis

French, Spanish, Swedish, Canadian, and U.S. companies are reported to be ready to bid on a Mexican contract, which, although it only covers a part of the government's plans to build a 20,000 MWe nuclear capacity by the year 2000, would give the winner not only a hefty piece of business, but also an inside track for the rest of the Mexican nuclear program.

Mexican Industry Minister José Andrés de Oteyza announced earlier this year that the government plans to open international bidding for the construction of Mexico's next 2,000-3,000 MWe generation of nuclear reactors in the middle of 1981.

Although American companies are eager to get into the Mexican nuclear market, most will admit that they are at a relative disadvantage to European companies, given the disruption their channels into Mexico suffered thanks to the Carter administration's known opposition to nuclear technology transfer. Mexico is still waiting for firm guarantees from the Reagan administration that it is going to reverse this position.

Mexican officials also announced plans to open international bidding for the construction of a nuclear fuel treatment plant in the state of Nuevo León, while the state oil company, Pemex, and the National Institute of Nuclear Research, ININ, have signed a program to share technological and scientific experience. The union of nuclear workers (SUTIN) has also proposed the construction of a second research center probably to be built on the Patzcuaro Lake in the southern state of Michoacán, which would have two small test reactors and other training facilities.

Preparing for growth

In a March 31 visit to the country's only nuclear research center of Salazar, outside Mexico City, Jorge Díaz Serrano, the head of Pemex, told journalists that the idea behind this joint program is to use in the nuclear area the technological breakthroughs Mexico has achieved in oil, and to take the advantage nuclear

technologies offer to further develop the country's oil industry. All this has the aim of "preparing the country in its transition from the era of hydrocarbons to the era of nuclear energy."

Everything is not on track with Mexico's nuclear plans, however. High-ranking Mexican officials have told *EIR* that the López Portillo government has still not made a final decision on the specifics of carrying out its nuclear program. The government is plagued by debates over heavy water reactors versus light water reactors, debates that by and large have been used to postpone the construction of new nuclear plants.

There is reportedly even some second thinking going on as to whether Mexico will actually open up the field to international bidding. Mexico's first nuclear plant in Laguna Verde on the Veracruz coast is due for completion in 1983.

An indication of the uncertainties in the Mexican nuclear industry was given by Dalmau Costa, the head of ININ, who, in statements to the press March 29, surprisingly asserted that the problems start with the fact that Mexico lacks an energy program. Although the López Portillo government's National Energy Plan (PNE) does not detail the type of reactors and other nuclear facilities the country should build, it clearly calls for the installation of a 20,000 MWe nuclear capacity by the year 2000.

Enter the 'greenies'

But if Mexico's nuclear program suffers from a certain amount of official wavering, far more serious is the threat now being posed by the sudden rise to prominence of Mexico's version of the same environmentalist movement that has hindered America's high-technology industries over the past years.

Mexico's domestic "greenie" movement suddenly jumped into public visibility last month with a series of paid ads in the antidevelopment press of the country, and with meetings to protest the construction of the

Patzcuaro research center proposed by SUTIN. Their main argument: the center's test reactors will raise the temperature of the adjoining lake, thus endangering the whitefish inhabiting the lake.

Such progress-wrecking rationalizations ought to be painfully familiar to American businessmen. As we document below, this is no accident: the "Mexican" ecology movement is, in fact, a child of the same antitechnology, proterrorist ideology spread in the United States by such institutions as the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Club of Rome, and the groups who put together the State Department Global 2000 report—the environmentalist opus on natural resources scarcity and depopulation elaborated under the Carter administration and now being promoted by operatives within the Reagan administration.

As in the United States and other advanced sector nations, the ecology movement in Mexico acts on several distinct levels.

On the top, it has high-ranking sponsors situated in various government ministries such as Foreign Relations, Health and Social Welfare, and Public Works and Housing—the last two being longtime centers for zero population growth ideologues.

These circles maintain close links to their cothinkers abroad. This is the case with Gerald Barney, for example, a high-ranking Rockefeller Foundation executive who led the team that put together Global 2000. Barney in fact flew down to Mexico last October to personally coordinate the promotion of Global 2000 environmentalist and depopulation proposals with these circles. The genocidal document is now being circulated there by the U.S. embassy and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

On a second, middle level, there are the "ideological centers," exemplified by the Center for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World (Ceestem), an institute closely tied to the Club of Rome and to agencies such as U.N. Institute for Training and Research and Unesco.

On the street-level, "action" side, we have fanatic Maoists and assorted dupes collected into such groups as the Mexican branch of the London-based, anti-nuclear Friends of the Earth and the Association for Appropriate Technologies, a group formed directly by Ceestem officials.

These groups have concentrated their attacks not only on Mexico's nascent nuclear industry, but also on any kind of high-technology project aimed at implementing the López Portillo government's commitment to make Mexico into an industrialized country by the year 2000. A major target of this campaign has been Pemex, the fastest growing sector of the economy and the one that is providing the greatest impetus for the

country's full development.

On March 19, for example, the same organizations which protested against the Patzcuaro center published a paid advertisement in the Mexico City leftist daily *Uno mas Uno* to denounce the "irrational exploitation and export of oil and gas, the destruction of the environment, and the looting of our resources," by Pemex. Joining forces with Association for Appropriate Technologies, the Friends of the Earth, and other signers of the ad was the recently formed Mexican Social Democratic Party, which is now seeking affiliation with Willy Brandt's pro-zero growth and proterrorist Socialist International.

The environmentalists have even found some support in Mexico's Congress, as exemplified by the introduction of a bill that calls for elevating environmentalism to a constitutional level—a move which would mark an unprecedented shift away from the explicit protechnology stand of the Mexican Constitution.

Labor, government counterattack

The aggressiveness of the new greenie movement has not gone unanswered, however, in particular by the labor movement and the government. Although in the past some nuclear workers' leaders had maintained alliances with leftist groups, this time, the SUTIN has taken the lead in denouncing the environmentalists as enemies of Mexico. In a paid ad published in several Mexico City dailies on March 24, the SUTIN, the original proponent of the Patzcuaro research center, asserted that the environmentalists' "save the whitefish" arguments "not only misinform, but lie and create alarm. In their extreme thesis—the 'return to nature'—they propose to stop technological and industrial development, and the right of the nation to access and to master the most advanced technologies." The union then called for a "pro-Patzcuaro center" demonstration to take place at the end of April.

Similarly, some government officials have clearly drawn a line on the environmentalists' moves. In hearings called by the congressional Commission on Ecology, Jorge Díaz Serrano, the head of Pemex, ridiculed the greenies' complaints against Pemex's "polluting activities," asserting, "I don't remember ever seeing a dead fish floating with its white belly up as a result of the oil industry's activities." He went on to warn that the battle for Mexico's future will be a long and hard one, asserting that "Mexico is in a process of industrialization that cannot be stopped. We must witness the disappearance of the peace of the village . . . and this means urbanization. We must accustom ourselves to oil and to other industries, such as petrochemicals, steel, capital goods, and the port and tourist industries, as well as to high and sophisticated scientific and technological developments."

New environmentalists in Mexico: their foreign and domestic sponsors

by Timothy Rush

The two-month-old political action group known as the Committee for the Ecological Defense of Michoacán (Codemich) announced in a press conference the second week of March that it is heading up a Mexico-wide fight to stop the planned Pátzcuaro nuclear training reactor complex in central Michoacán state.

Speaking for Codemich were two individuals, Adip Sebag and José Arias Chávez. Backup was provided by the Mexican branch of Friends of the Earth. Facilities for the press conference were provided by the Center for Social Communication (Cencos).

These are the elements that have artificially implanted and nurtured Mexico's "greenie" movement, under the auspices of the United Nations, Club of Rome, and international environmentalist movement.

The ATA

José Arias Chávez is director of a group called the Association for Appropriate Technologies (ATA), founded in early 1980. The ATA was building on sustained but quiet cadre development begun in the early 1970s, when a major office of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) was located in Mexico City.

In this early work, Ricardo and Francisco Mier Ayala founded a group called Bioconservacion, whose major project was constructing an "ecologically self-sufficient house" at Xochicali, in the mountains west of Mexico City, where they proceeded to live with their mother. Funding came from the Inter-American Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Bioconservacion's journal, *Survival*, received significant advertising revenue from liquor magnate and Canadian Bronfman associate Pedro Domecq. The group's international tie was to Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature et de ses Ressources, based in Switzerland. José and Jesús Arias Chávez, popularized the Xochicali house in a book, *The Ecologically Self-Sufficient House*. This book was edited by Jesús Quiróz, a leading professor of the Jesuit university of Mexico, the Iberoamericana.

During the same years the Mexican left-Jesuit media and international liberal media such as the *New York Times* built up the leader of the Mexican Workers Party (Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores—PMT), Heberto Castillo, as the country's great fighter against the Mexican oil expansion for small-scale growth linked to "preservation of the environment."

Also, during the same years, the Center for Third World Studies (Ceestem), founded by former president Luis Echeverría at the end of his term in 1975-76, cemented the close organizational ties to the international zero-growth directorate known as the Club of Rome, and the Club of Rome's think-tank unit within the United Nations structure, the U.N. Institute for Training and Research (Unitar). The three institutions jointly sponsored major Third World planning sessions in New York and Mexico City in the spring of 1980.

The ATA pulled all these strands together. Its founders included the Arias Chávez and Mier Ayala brothers. Jesús Quiróz of the Iberoamericana moved in to head the ATA's Community Promotion activities. Rodolfo Rosas of the PMT and the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) took charge of "Projects and Technical Assistance." Yves Cabannes, a French "appropriate-technology" ideologue attached to the Ceestem, joined the fiscal oversight committee, as did Gilberto Valenzuela, a leader of a neo-Zapatista "Plan de Ayala Movement." This movement's goal is the reversion of Mexican agriculture to the wooden-plough techniques of 50 years ago. Seed money for the venture came from Ceestem and the Colegio de Mexico.

The crystallizing event for these networks was a cadre-building two-day workshop in Palmira, Morelos, just south of Mexico City, in mid-May of 1980. The conference was sponsored jointly by ATA, Ceestem, and Bioconservacion, which at that time was completing its merger with ATA. Speakers and guests included Ivan Illich, the famed Jesuit-trained "deschooler"; Mauricio Schoijet, a rabid Argentinian environmentalist connected to the Socialist International; Victor Urquidi, head of the Colegio de Mexico and Mexico's only member of

the Club of Rome; and Iván Restrepo of Conacyt Ecodevelopment center.

With ATA's Arias Chávez at the Codemich press conference was Jean Robert of the Mexican Friends of the Earth organization. Swiss by nationality, Robert was standing in for Friends of the Earth director Arturo Aldama, who travels frequently to Geneva for translating duties at U.N. conferences. The third speaker at the press conference, Adip Sibag, is the head of a front group called the Mexican Public Opinion Institute (IMOP), a subsidiary of the newly formed Mexican Social Democratic Party (PSD). The PSD is seeking official recognition from Willy Brandt's Socialist International.

Cencos

The Codemich press conference took place at the most important clearinghouse for the different facets of nation-wrecking movements afoot in Mexico today, Cencos. Jesuit social activists have controlled it from the start, and until recently its funding came openly from "liberationist" Church sources. In addition to its support work for Codemich and other greenie causes, Cencos anchors the network of human-rights protest groups in Mexico and the growing drive to "preserve" backward Indian communities from economic development. This places it in a command center position to interlink the various movements. The director of Cencos, José Alvarez Icaza, wrote a basic study of "human-rights violations" among the Indians of the Huasteca area in April 1980, in collaboration with the PMT. This

set the sage for PMT leader Heberto Castillo's current crusade to stop Pemex oil development in the adjacent Chicontepec area.

In recent months Cencos has garnered particular attention for providing a base of operations to a series of terrorist embassy takeovers and church occupations.

The current "breakout" of the greenie movement into national prominence—if not yet into real national strength—was facilitated by dissident officials in government opposed to President López Portillo's high-technology development focus. Most prominent is the Housing and Public Works Ministry (SAHOP), under Pedro Ramirez Vázquez. A hotbed of U.N.-linked planning since the Echeverría period, SAHOP put the Arias Chávez brothers on its payroll in the late 1970s and published a series of eight booklets popularizing "Ecotechniques for Self-Sufficient Housing," among other greenie support efforts.

The Education Ministry, under Fernando Solana, has similarly aided the greenies, particularly through the work of the director of the free textbook program, Enrique González Pedrero. Pedrero recently published a bible of "small is beautiful" thinking, called *The Wealth of Poverty*, which has been cited by Codemich organizers as a sourcebook for antinuclear propaganda.

The mayor of Mexico City, Carlos Hank González, has shown sympathy for the greenie movement on a number of occasions. And Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, a product of U.N.-centered diplomatic work, is a leading advocate of the Brandt Commission's "appropriate technologies" world blueprint.

Rudolf Bahro drops in on Mexico

The Mexican greenie movement, hardly "out of the closet" last month, got an ideological injection from one of the leading European figures guiding environmentalism toward political violence.

This was Rudolf Bahro, who arrived the first week in April for a series of private meetings with radical ecologists and antitechnology gurus, and a public presentation in a seminar on "New Social Perspectives" hosted by the Social Research Institute of the National Autonomous University (UNAM).

Bahro achieved notoriety in Europe last year when he was deported from East Germany. Bahro worked closely with operatives of England's Sussex University, which houses a major component of British intelligence's psychological warfare apparatus. Environ-

mentalism and terrorism are specialties of Sussex studies.

Once loose in the West, Bahro joined the circles of the Socialistische Büro, a radical conglomeration of environmentalist and terrorist support networks. He is currently working with a group soliciting money to buy arms for the Jesuit-directed "left" side of the terrorist war in El Salvador, and contributed personal funds to the arms-running.

In Mexico, he railed against industrialism in both the East and the West as a form of "exterminism," "the most hostile threat to life today." Science "is the principal enemy of the human species." To save ourselves, "all classes must unify themselves religiously to transform themselves and thus save humanity. . . . Marxists and Christians must unite in the defense of the old civilization by forming a falange against the common enemy." Bahro affirms that his ideas are based on those of Teilhard de Chardin, the Jesuit thinker who urged an end to any forward motion in society.