

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

New magazine promotes terrorism

Socialist International networks are behind an effort to spill over violence from Central America.

Around mid-June a new weekly magazine, *Por esto!* appeared on the newsstands, joining the large number of other magazines and newspapers that have sprung up here over the course of the year. This weekly, however, has one characteristic that distinguishes it from the others: it openly advocates terrorism for Central America and Mexico.

There are a few other peculiarities to this publication that are worth noting. First, its collaborators are some of the outstanding members of the Socialist International networks linked to François Mitterrand who are coordinating an outbreak of continental terror.

Second, it appears to be financed by both Cuba and by the Mexican Finance Ministry, headed by presidential aspirant David Ibarra. The Finance Ministry paid for one full-page ad in the latest issue and the Cuban government paid for three full-page ads.

The appearance of this magazine, which is designed to promote the spillover of Central American terrorism into Mexico, has been a cause for concern among security officials consulted by *EIR*.

Por Esto!, published by well-known terrorist sympathizer Mario Menéndez Rodríguez (no relation to this author!), is a sequel to his earlier magazine *Por Qué?* published during the 1970s. Although Menéndez was arrested in the early 1970s for harboring terrorists, *Por*

Qué? continued to be published until 1974, serving as a forum for literally every terrorist group that existed at the time.

Chief among them was the famous 23rd of September League so vigorously pursued by President Luis Echeverría's administration. I might add that when Régis Debray went into Bolivia in 1966 to work with Che Guevara's guerrilla campaign, it was as in his capacity as a correspondent for the Mexican magazine *Sucesos*, whose editor was the same Mario Menéndez.

In 1975, Menéndez and a group of fellow suspected terrorists were released from jail in exchange for the kidnapped American consul John Terrance Leonhardy. At their own request, the group was deported to Cuba where Menéndez made a name for himself as a revolutionary journalist.

As a reporter for the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina, he traveled to a variety of "battlefronts" to report on armed struggle in Latin America. He did not return to Mexico until 1980 when President López Portillo declared a political amnesty.

The avowedly proterrorist *Por Esto!* is no different from the operation that Menéndez ran during the 1970s. Among its collaborators are several amnestied Mexican terrorists such as Paquita Calvo Zapata of the FUZ group that kidnapped then-Director of Tourism Julio Hirshfield Almada in 1972.

Other contributors represent the same networks that coordinated Central and Latin American terrorism in the 1960s. These include: François Mitterrand's newly appointed adviser Régis Debray and Marxist theoretician Martha Harnecker, both proponents of Che Guevara's thesis of creating "one, two, many Vietnams" throughout the continent; Socialist International asset Juan Mari Bras of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Mario Firmenich of Argentina's Montoneros; and Guyana's Cheddi Jagan, who has close links to Cuban intelligence.

Mario Menéndez writes the feature article for *Por Esto!* usually straight from Guatemala and El Salvador, and accompanied by pictures of the "revolutionary armies," and of youngsters bearing arms. The cover of the latest issue of the magazine is a photograph of an enormous crucifix, at the bottom of which the word *Terrorism!* appears in large, bold letters.

But there is a very decided focus on Mexico in *Por Esto!* The first three issues have been dedicated to a defense of the Mexican Communist Party's front group, COCEI, which won control of the municipal council in Juchitán, Oaxaca, a few months back. COCEI is now trying to prevent the government from going ahead with its industrialization plans for the region, claiming that it intends to convert peasants into workers in order to exploit them more!

Similarly, *Por Esto!* is accusing the López Portillo government of "ethnocide" against indigenous populations for wanting to deprive them of their indigenous "roots" and assimilate them into a modern industrial society.