

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Atalaya '82: Plotting against Mexico?

A collection of European oligarchs met to "orient" Mexican businessmen against government industrialization policy.

Four hundred individuals from around the world met in Guadalajara, Mexico on Jan. 14-17 to "analyze the historical, philosophical, and sociological role" of private enterprise in Mexico and the world. One political commentator here characterized this elite, \$2,000-per-head gathering, called "Atalaya '82," as a re-run of the infamous "Chipinque '76" conference held in Mexico six years ago, which then President Luis Echeverría denounced as "fascist." The similarity comes not so much from the meetings' semi-secret nature, as from the content of the discussions.

Although the Atalaya meeting was closed to the public for most of its sessions, we have been able to determine, from the scant leaks in the press and from some of our well-informed sources, that one of the most enthusiastic sponsors of the meeting, Don Agustín Legorreta, the President of the Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex), the largest private bank in the country, decided at the meeting to terminate his half-hearted support for the government's industrialization plans. Legorreta declared that the next Mexican administration must be one of austerity, along the lines demanded by the IMF. "We should not resign ourselves to sacrificing the quality of our country's development to maintain growth with inflation. This is like a cancer which sooner or later will have fatal consequences."

Other notables of the Mexican private sector also reaffirmed their familiar Friedmanite positions: they attacked the government for excessive public spending; they defended high interest rates as a supposed fount of increased savings; and they opposed increases in minimum legal bank reserve ratios. They said they did not fear greater state participation in the economy, because the true creators of wealth are private businessmen, and not the state.

Political analysts here were hardly surprised by these remarks; but Legorreta's renunciation of the government's policy of "growth with inflation," which he had previously tolerated and on occasion even endorsed, was big news.

What could cause such a sudden shift in line, in the midst of a presidential succession period?

The answer is quite simple, if we look at the Atalaya meeting as a whole and the kind of people who were there. It included a mixture of European Christian Democrats, members of the Opus Dei, and, above all, elements of the most sinister and rotten European oligarchies who intend to reclaim their feudal dominion over the world.

Exemplary is the case of one Professor Nikolaus Lobkowitz, the President of the University of Munich up until three weeks ago. He descends from Czechoslovak oligarchic families intermarried with the royal family of Liechtenstein.

Our professor is an intimate friend of Armin Mohler. Mohler is the head of West Germany's Siemens Foundation and a former member of Hitler's Waffen SS.

Professor Lobkowitz is now working with the ex-president of the Sorbonne on a project to reorganize the Catholic Church and wipe out the positive influence of the Vatican on world affairs.

It was no accident that such oligarchs were invited to "orient" the Mexicans, since Don Agustín Legorreta himself aspires to join that elitist circle. He is a member of the Islet Foundation, a vehicle of the Schlumberger family fortune. In fact, Remy Schlumberger is listed as a "proprietary counselor" on the board of Legorreta's Banamex bank. The Schlumberger family's business empire has traditionally been based in Europe, especially France, with the backing of powerful oligarchic families from Geneva and England. Members of the family were directors of the murderous Perminex organization, which was responsible for the dozens of assassination attempts against French president Charles de Gaulle.

Legorreta is also a member of Henry Kissinger's International Business Advisory Council of Georgetown University.

One is therefore rightly concerned about the kind of ideas which Atalaya '82 tried to put into the minds of Mexican businessmen. For if the banking leader who appeared to support the government's industrialization plans is now seeking to destroy them, what then is being planned by those who have consistently advocated the destruction of the Mexican state for being an obstacle to their goals of economic domination?