

A 'democratic' plan to chop up Mexico

by D.E. Pettingell

"There is what is called a movement for democracy in Mexico, which is unheard of. This cuts across class lines, it cuts across geographical lines. . . . I place great hope and faith in it, because this is a civil movement that has a lot of possibilities, if the PRI [ruling party] does not try to crush it, and I mean drown it in blood," declared Daniel James, director of the Mexico-U.S. Institute (MUSI) in an Aug. 19 interview with a Washington-based radio station.

Daniel James is an old fox in the service of the "Irangate" faction of the intelligence community. Although he is called a "journalist" and an "academic" specializing in Mexico (where he is said to have lived for more than 20 years), James is known inside Mexico as a CIA agent, pure and simple. In his book, *The CIA in Mexico*, journalist Manuel Buendía—assassinated several years ago—unmasked James. In 1976, James tried to infiltrate the presidential campaign of José López Portillo, whom he was later to accuse of "burying" capitalism in Mexico by nationalizing the banks.

James founded MUSI at the beginning of 1987, with the explicit purpose of creating inside Mexico a version of the "civil crusade" currently being directed from the U.S. "secret, parallel government" to attempt the overthrow of the Panamanian government. MUSI currently seeks a maximum of chaos and violence in Mexico, to thereby justify armed U.S. intervention in the region from the Río Grande down through Panama.

"There is no leader in this movement, but there are leaders," said James. They are the "leading Mexican intellectuals, people who had been supporters, and the image-makers of the PRI for decades . . . of the stature of Octavio Paz . . . his assistant Enrique Krauz; José Luis Cuevas, one of Mexico's outstanding painters."

James's scenario for the opposition is well under way. Very recently, the Mexican opposition—ranging from the communists of the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) to the neofascists of the National Action Party (PAN) and the social democrats of the "Democratic Current"—unified in "defense of the vote." James's plan is for the opposition to ultimately close ranks around a single presidential candidate, possibly the PMS's Heberto Castillo.

Democracy 'made in U.S.A.'

The process of consolidating the opposition coincided with a press conference held in Monterrey, Nuevo León Sept. 20, at which the existence of the MUSI was made public by PANistas Rogelio Sada Zambrano, businessman; Javier Livas, son of former Nuevo León Gov. Eduardo Livas Villarreal; and Sergio Américo Lastra, former adviser to PAN leader Francisco Barrio. The three announced the MUSI's program, and the formation of a "democratizing army," into whose ranks they invited all interested in fighting for "democracy." The Mexican press described the MUSI as an "open alliance of the most backward forces in Mexico with those sectors most inclined to U.S. interventionism."

The MUSI publishes a monthly report on Mexico. In its first edition, issued in August, James praises the book by Enrique Krauz, *For a Democracy Without Adjectives*, in which the author calls for a "Mexican glasnost" (Russian: openness).

In his August interview, James declared that 1988, the year of the presidential elections, would see "internal unity . . . disintegrate." He asserted that "centrifugal forces" could be unleashed, and "will declare: 'We in the north, we in Sonora, Chihuahua, Yucatán or whatever, we don't want to have anything to do with the central government. We want to form our own republic.'"

James complained that the U.S. government has not adequately used economic-financial dependence as an instrument of intervention, as the State Department and Congress have done with Panama. Given that Mexico is practically the "property" of the U.S. banks, due to its immense foreign debt, implied James, it is only logical that the United States demand reforms in the political system as "repayment."

Before launching MUSI, James was part of the "Mexico project" of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) at Georgetown University. Since the 1970s, James has repeatedly contended that Mexico is a quasi-communist state in which presidential power is so enormous that no foreign investor can sleep peacefully at night. In 1983, he insisted that the PRI had allied with the communists. In June 1986, he wrote a column in the *Washington Times*, calling Mexico more totalitarian than the Soviet Union. In the U.S.S.R., he said, choice of general secretary is done by the Politburo, while in Mexico, the President is chosen by just one man: the President.

In his address to a March 1986 symposium on "the crisis" in Mexico, sponsored by the Council for International Security (a creation of the Moon sect), James presented four scenarios on Mexico's future: 1) "democratization"; 2) a Marxist-Leninist state "à la Mexico"; 3) chaos and disorder, and 4) a military coup. At the time, James said that the second was "the most probable."

But policy seems to have changed. Now, James insists that the third option, chaos, is the most feasible, and is directing the Mexican opposition toward that end.