

fallen into disrepair.

Ibykus: What do you think is the cause for this, and given the fact that you are singing *Lieder* often both in Europe and the United States, do you see a difference between these two continents on this question?

Bumbry: First of all, there is a difference, and I don't know whether it is just because of the fact that America is an English-speaking country which lacks an enormous recital tradition. Of course you might find pockets in the U.S. where there is a tradition in *Lieder*-recitals, like in New York City, Boston, or Chicago. There you have people who used to have recital subscriptions. But unfortunately the recital-subscribers no longer exist, because somehow, maybe for money reasons, it seems to be no longer interesting to do recitals. I really don't understand why. . . .

Ibykus: How do you see the role of an artist? Like Schiller conceived it, as a mission to uplift people?

Bumbry: Yes, I do; I certainly do. I don't think that all artists have that understanding, but I think certain artists do and I believe that is my calling.

I often wonder, what am I here for? I have no children, I am no longer married, so it must be something else. I fought constantly with my husband about musical values and I really think that the reason he and I got divorced was because of a discrepancy in our musical values. For me there was and is either music or not; either you give or you don't.

Ibykus: How do you think about the realization of those values today? The United States of America used to be a country where everybody who had talent could accomplish anything. This was the case when you started your career. What about today?

Bumbry: Well, maybe it is always the case that, if you have a talent, if you have really a great talent, you will always succeed. It is like oil and water: The oil always rises to the top, as does the cream in the milk, doesn't it?

But it is getting more and more difficult. I find that somehow people don't strive for greatness anymore, they feel comfortable to be mediocre, they even enjoy mediocrity. I have never enjoyed mediocrity. I always felt that one has to strive for greatness and that is the reason why, speaking about my country, I feel so sad about the death of Martin Luther King and the death of John F. Kennedy. I thought that we were on the road to greatness then and with those persons being put aside, we as Americans, seem to have abruptly stopped the advancement in our form of civilization, in our form of culture.

If there is some way that we could reach that point again, to say nothing about striving beyond that, I would like to be part of it, of course.

Ibykus: Miss Bumbry, thank you very much.

More fraud expected in Mexico elections

by Hector Apolinar

The July 2 election of deputies to the state congress of the Mexican state of Michoacán is currently the primary political concern of the group around President Carlos Salinas de Gortari which is determined to wipe the nationalist movement headed by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solorzano from the political map of Mexico, whatever the cost.

The stakes are high for President Salinas. Since the disputed 1988 presidential elections—in which Cárdenas, and not Salinas de Gortari, won a majority of the votes, according to many in Mexico—Cárdenas's movement has become the rallying point for national resistance against foreign bankers' looting of the country, the policy which Salinas has championed. Salinas, now in the middle of negotiations with those foreign creditors on Mexico's debt, is desperate to maintain the illusion that his government, and economic program, are firmly in control of the country.

Salinas's problem, according to the widest range of sources available to *EIR*, is that the situation in Michoacán today is of a dramatic Cardenist ferment which promises to give the election to Cárdenas's followers by a landslide. According to all impartial observers, the local campaigns of the ruling PRI party candidates have been a dismal failure; their electoral rallies have been likened to hopeless preaching in the desert.

Michoacán is especially important because it is Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas's place of birth; he was governor of the state until 1986. His father, President and Gen. Lázaro Cárdenas, revered as the founder of Mexico's national oil industry, also comes from Michoacán, and was governor there during the 1930s. In the 1988 elections, the Cardenist candidates in Michoacán won all the federal deputy posts and the two state senator posts, taking 95% of the state vote.

There is no way the ruling PRI party can face such a Cardenist fortress in an honest election, and win.

Victory for the candidates of Cárdenas's Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) would also create a situation in which the state governor, a member of the PRI party, would be obliged to subject his public actions to the dictates of the Constitution and to the scrutiny of the state congress. Such a situation would be unprecedented in Mexican modern history.

Before it permits such a situation to occur, the Salinas grouping will use all means at its disposal to try to deliver a *coup de grace* against the Cardenist movement, in hope of presenting its political corpse to the country's creditor banks and to the White House.

The leaders of the Cardenist movement in Michoacán understand clearly what is at stake in the elections there. In a July 5 interview, Michoacán senator Cristóbal Arias—an intimate of Cárdenas—declared, “For the great national Cardenist movement, the victory of the Party of the Democratic Revolution in Michoacán would serve as an incentive for the strengthening of the citizenry and for fulfillment of the law—for the exercise of those principles engraved in the Constitution.”

Arias stated also that “the fight has been intense, at times bloody due to the attacks and repression to which we have been subjected. We assume a great responsibility, but we are confident that we can carry it. . . . The fight has not been free of sacrifice, of suffering, but we are optimistic that we can advance and open up and occupy ever larger political space.”

Failure of electoral fraud strategy

The first phase of the Salinas group's strategy has been a complete fiasco. The group of electoral fraud “experts” sent by the PRI and the federal government to the state has been firmly rejected by Michoacán's citizens, who remain unconvinced that a few small public works projects, free haircuts, distribution of anti-rabies vaccines, and temporary milk distribution warrant a vote for the PRI. The group of “experts” was headed by a former mayor in Michoacán, José Guadarrama, former agriculture minister Francisco Merino Rabago, former Sonora governor Carlos Armando Biebrich, and former agrarian reform minister Augusto Gómez Villanueva, who have set up an army of bums and hustlers who are spreading millions of pesos around—allegedly to “promote” voting.

Given the clear failure of this “counterinsurgent” strategy, the Salinas forces have taken the first steps toward creating a situation of tension and violence in the state, which in turn provides them a pretext to increase standing army and police forces in Michoacán. The idea is to intimidate—and if necessary, repress—Cárdenas's followers.

As part of the effort, the government/PRI forces are financing a costly press and rumor campaign accusing the PRD, and Cárdenas personally, of seeking to unleash violence in the upcoming elections. “We will leave the aggression and rage to others,” declared Luis Colossio, the president of the PRI, in an implicit reference to the Cardenists during a tour through Michoacán on April 15. Later he said that the PRI is the party of “legality [and] stability,” suggesting that the PRD was the party of illegality and instability. On May 10, another PRI leader, José Castillo Moto, accused Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas before the Mexico City Assembly of

“provoking violence” and a rupture of public order. On June 8, the special PRI delegate in Michoacán accused the PRD of “using violence.”

Discrediting the military

The army, too, is being employed to carry out these dirty tactics. On May 20, during an electoral tour of Michoacán, Cárdenas was informed that army forces were interfering in the PRD's campaigning. Cárdenas responded by warning that “it is invalid to conduct politics with the army,” and demanded that “the illegal interventions that members of the army are making in the [electoral] campaigns be brought to an end.”

Cárdenas's criticism of the role of the army in Michoacán accentuates the discredit into which that institution has fallen over the past seven years, due to the many accusations of corruption that have been made against some of its commanders. While the new Defense Minister Riviello Bazán may hope to recover lost ground, actions such as those being employed in Michoacán under orders from the higher-ups are only serving to cause discontent both within and outside the Armed Forces.

Added to this is the fact that, in recent days, there has been a series of highly suspicious acts of violence, prompting greater political and military vigilance in the state. On June 8, a group of assailants attacked a passenger bus headed toward the interior of the state. The driver was shot and lost control of the vehicle, which plunged over a cliff, killing 21 persons. A few hours earlier, another bus had been sprayed with bullets by assailants trying to bring it to a stop. One person was killed and two wounded. These two brutal and apparently senseless acts triggered a strike of bus drivers in protest against lack of highway security. In response, the government and the army combed the region in search of the criminals, while imposing stricter and more widespread security procedures. On June 10, individuals with high-powered weapons randomly shot at several buses and cars on another highway, leaving one dead and two seriously wounded.

Until now, the authorities have not arrested a single one of the assailants.

Well-informed sources report that there is already discussion that a “state of emergency” may be declared by state or federal authorities before the July 2 elections, in response to this wave of violence.

Referring to this possibility, Sen. Cristóbal Arias declared that the PRD opposes “the imposition of a military siege, during and after the elections, which would be to the benefit of the government and to the PRI, and which would tarnish the electoral process.” He categorically warned that the government should “carefully weigh the costs and risks, the consequences, should it not respect the popular will as expressed at the polls. In this, not only Michoacán is involved, but the entire country.”