

oligarchy, seeing the imminent collapse of the international monetary and financial system, has decided to convert the United Nations into the center of a new world empire, in which the very concept of the sovereign nation-state is eliminated. . . . After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in the East, organizations like the Inter-American Dialogue have emphasized that it is necessary to dismantle the Ibero-American armies, supposedly because the Cold War is over and these armies no longer have reason to exist. . . .

Just as El Salvador was obliged to reduce the size of its army by half, and to purge all of its high-ranking officers, so do the oligarchical families and usurious interests which control the International Monetary Fund intend to reduce the size of armies the world over. The Inter-American Dialogue, made up of 100 notables from the Americas . . . has established four fundamental goals for bringing this about: 1) expand the Free Trade Treaty to include all the countries of America; 2) collectively defend "democracy"; 3) carry out programs that give a human face to the free-market policies; and 4) promote the legalization of drugs. . . .

Thanks to the defamatory campaigns of Amnesty International, the Attorney General's office and the non-governmental organizations, our Armed Forces today appear not as defenders of public order and of national sovereignty, but as a criminal organization dedicated to the torture, kidnapping and murder of Colombians. . . .

Peace must be sown with scientific, technological and industrial progress, not by yielding to the demands of criminals. The principle of legitimate authority must be restored, by the monopoly of force, to root out any kind of private justice. For all these reasons and more . . . we must defend, respect and dignify our Armed Forces, because they are the guarantors of national sovereignty.

Zuluaga: The Colombian army was born with the Fatherland . . . to defend the essence of the nation-state: its independence, its sovereignty, the integrity of its territory, and the constitutional and legal order. How does one carry out such a delicate mission under current circumstances, if the government and other branches of the state function paradoxically like loose cannons . . . and delegate to foreign-inspired non-governmental organizations the leadership of the nation and the imposition of the new order. . . . ?

The strategy is already under way . . . to reduce the Armed Forces; thus the involvement of the Attorney General's office in the special disciplinary regimen . . . the reforms of the career regimen; and the debate against military legal jurisdiction. . . . [They want] an Armed Forces which neither thinks nor fights; which neither deliberates nor imposes law and order; which is civilianized so that it will obey foreign designs, even to the detriment of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, the Constitution, and the entire nation's well-being.

Eyewitness Report

Future of Mexico is at stake in Chiapas

by Marivilia Carrasco and Hugo López Ochoa

The armed "indigenist" movement that rose up in the Mexican border state of Chiapas on Jan. 1 of this year, bearing the name Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), has been portrayed by the international news media as highly popular. Its putative leader, "sub-Comandante Marcos," has been painted in lurid Hollywood colors as a Robin Hood who fights the rich to give to the poor, and who is adored by all of Mexico.

Once again, the major media are at the opposite pole from reality. Mexico's presidential elections of Aug. 21 showed beyond a shadow of doubt that the EZLN is rejected by the vast majority of Mexicans; its electoral arm, the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), and its presidential candidate, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, received only 17% of the vote. The new President-elect Ernesto Zedillo, of the ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI), received 50% of the vote in a massive turnout, while Diego Fernández de Ceballos of the conservative National Action Party took 27%.

In Chiapas itself, where the EZLN supported the PRD gubernatorial candidate Amado Avendaño, the Zapatistas were also trounced. Avendaño, founder and director of the leftist newspaper *El Tiempo* of San Cristóbal de las Casas, received only 36% of the vote against PRI candidate Eduardo Robledo Rincón's 51%.

Opposition to EZLN grows

Our recent visit to the Chiapas city of San Cristóbal de las Casas, headquarters of the diocese of schismatic Bishop Samuel Ruiz—better known as the EZLN's "Comandante Samuel"—provided first-hand evidence that the people of Chiapas not only repudiate Zapatista "indigenism," but are organizing themselves to expel the "red bishop" from Chiapas and to prevent their state from being cut away from the nation, as the Zapatistas seek. We were able to interview leaders from a variety of grassroots organizations, such as the San Cristóbal Civic Front (FCS), the Coalition of Citizen Organizations of Chiapas (COCCH), and the Regional Cattlemen's Union of Chiapas (UGR), all of whom played decisive roles in the electoral defeat of the EZLN by organizing a 100% successful pre-election civic strike to protest the vandalism and violence sponsored by the Zapatistas.

The problem this civic movement faces is that it is forced to fight on two fronts: on the one hand, against the Zapatistas; on the other, against a powerful pro-Zapatista clique infiltrated within the PRI and the government, which is headed by former President Luis Echeverría and by former Federal District Mayor Manuel Camacho Solís, who had also served as “peace commissioner” in Chiapas after the Jan. 1 uprising. The tactic of this fifth column, together with its EZLN and PRD allies, centers on forcing the resignation of Chiapas Governor-elect Robledo Rincón, and imposing in his place the defeated pro-Zapatista gubernatorial candidate Amado Avendaño.

Since the pro-Zapatista group was routed in the recent presidential elections and was unable to mount a credible legal challenge to that election, it has decided to impose its will in Chiapas. If it succeeds, its plan is to use this as a national precedent and to throw the rest of the country into turmoil, by trying to force an annulment of the presidential elections and the installation of a transitional government with a mandate to call new elections and change the Constitution. In this sense, the future of Mexico is at stake in Chiapas.

This Zapatista faction is also linked to British intelligence and to the Aztec-indigenist movement concocted by the British and their U.S. allies since the early 19th century. The modern-day network of British intelligence, infiltrated into both the U.S. and Ibero-America, centers around Wall Street’s Inter-American Dialogue, the São Paulo Forum set up by Fidel Castro, and the Hollinger Corp., the media empire on whose board of directors sits British agent-of-influence Henry Kissinger.

Making Chiapas ungovernable

Since Aug. 21, the narco-Zapatistas—backed by the interim Chiapas Gov. Javier López Moreno (godson of Comandante Samuel) and by current Peace Commissioner Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar—have focused their efforts on fomenting chaos in Chiapas. They are using for cannon fodder the hundreds of peasants who have invaded more than 600 ranches outside the “liberated zones” conceded to the EZLN during the series of failed peace talks.

On Oct. 10 and 11, the Zapatistas extended their land seizures even further, and held a second National Democratic Convention—effectively, the national command structure of the EZLN—in San Cristóbal de las Casas, which was slated to finish on Oct. 12 with demonstrations across the country in repudiation of the 502nd anniversary of the evangelization which began with Columbus’s landing in 1492, which the EZLN calls “502 years of indigenous, black, and people’s resistance.” “They are going to be surprised by the indigenous mobilizations on Oct. 12 in defense of Avendaño’s victory,” threatened José Álvarez Icaza, convention coordinator.

The Zapatistas are hopeful that outgoing President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will stay true to his profile of negotiating

governorships with the opposition parties, even after official PRI electoral victories, in the name of avoiding violence and keeping the detested North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, intact. They believe that President Salinas will be prepared to negotiate over Chiapas, so as not to ruin his plans to preside over the new World Trade Organization when he steps down from the presidency on Dec. 1. For this same reason, it is said that Salinas has postponed any armed action against the EZLN, in order to dump the whole problem in the lap of his successor, Ernesto Zedillo.

On Sept. 19, the FCS, COCCH, and UGR began a permanent mobilization to block this conspiracy against Mexican unity, a mobilization that will culminate with the First National Forum to Support the Invaded Landholders of Chiapas on Oct. 17-18. It is expected that some 20,000 small landholders from across the country will attend, including the president of the National Cattlemen’s Association, César González, and the president of the National Confederation of Rural Landowners, Senator-elect Jesús González Gortázar.

Since before the elections, 1,500 cattlemen and farmers from the UGR have kept up a picket line in front of the Chiapas governor’s palace in the capital city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, demanding that the federal government intervene to halt the chaos and anarchy. As of Oct. 15, some 120 of these will begin a hunger strike in Constitution Square (the Zócalo), in front of the National Palace in Mexico City.

Oust the Devil’s bishop!

The mobilization of the three grassroots groups has already dented the narco-Zapatista plans, by intensely pressuring the Mexican Bishops Conference to oust Bishop “Comandante” Ruiz from Chiapas, while at the same time successfully encouraging President Salinas to order the PRI’s unstinting support to Governor-elect Robledo, thereby dissolving the rumors spread by the National Democratic Convention that the governorship was about to be bargained away. On Sept. 21, some 150 COCCH and FCS members from San Cristóbal—known traditionally as *coletos*—greeted six bishops sent to back Ruiz as mediator in the Chiapas conflict and to urge the *coletos* to renew their peace talks, with two huge banners which said, “Samuel Ruiz: Chiapas hates you and the *coletos* hate you. Get Out!” and “Instead of giving you the Nobel Peace Prize, the people give you the Nobel War Prize.”

The demonstrators shouted slogans like “Anti-Christ and false prophet!” and “Traitor to the pope!” They also carried 50 copies of the two famous posters published by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement, Lyndon LaRouche’s co-thinkers in Mexico: one with a photo of Samuel Ruiz and the title, “Wanted for Treason against the Fatherland,” which for the first time identified Samuel Ruiz as EZLN “comandante”; and the other with a photo of a serpent and the title “Get Samuel Ruiz out of the Lacandona Jungle.” (The Lacandona is the center of EZLN territory in Chiapas.) And, for the third

time, the city of San Cristóbal was plastered with the two posters when the bishops' delegation arrived.

A leaflet put out by the San Cristóbal Civic Front called on Mexican Bishops Conference president Msgr. Adolfo Antonio Suárez Rivera, a native of San Cristóbal who headed the six-bishop delegation, to explain himself, in view of the many signals he has given of "acceptance and even approval of Monsignor Ruiz's seditious efforts." The leaflet went on: "Your visit to San Cristóbal will make us happy with you, or ashamed of you."

Suárez Rivera is tied into the pro-Zapatista Camacho-Echeverría fifth column in the ruling PRI. He is a shirttail relative of former peace commissioner Manuel Camacho Solís through Camacho's ex-father-in-law, Manuel Velasco Suárez, who was Chiapas governor during the Luis Echeverría presidency and an Echeverría protégé.

The FCS and COCCH mobilization enraged interim Chiapas Gov. Javier López Moreno and current peace commissioner Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar, both professed supporters of Bishop Ruiz's "pastoral work," and they protested what they called "offenses to the dignity" of the red bishop. On the request of Madrazo Cuéllar, Governor López Moreno has ordered an "investigation" of municipal officials accused of organizing and participating in the Sept. 21 demonstration. The political persecution of Prof. Ricardo Díaz, leader of the FCS, was also ordered.

Despite this hounding, the civic mobilization against the "comandante" is having its effect. On the same day as the San Cristóbal demonstration, PRI President Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza declared in Tuxtla that "Robledo Rincón won and the popular will expressed at the polls cannot under any circumstances be negotiated, for to do so would be to invite anarchy and disorder."

As things in Chiapas get hotter, "Comandante" Ruiz has announced plans to go on a vacation for a month or two. Before leaving, he acknowledged that he owes obedience to the pope as his spiritual father, but he clarified that in his view, that means only "reasonable obedience."

Interview: Fr. Luis Beltrán Mijangos

Bishop Samuel Ruiz is the 'comandante'

The following interview with a priest of San Cristóbal de las Casas diocese was conducted in Chiapas by Marivilia Carrasco and Hugo López Ochoa on Sept. 18.

Twenty years ago, Bishop Samuel Ruiz shut down the seminary in San Cristóbal de las Casas and forced all priests who opposed him to leave the region. As a result, all the churches in San Cristóbal are controlled by Ruiz's followers. There has also been a proliferation of over 20 fundamentalist Protestant sects, most of whose members belong to the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN).

The only opposition priest whom Samuel Ruiz did not succeed in expelling from the region was Luis Beltrán Mijangos Molina. After 20 years of being denied his own church, he was finally permitted to work out of the San Cristóbal Cathedral with a limited honorarium until Dec. 26, 1993.

"Comandante" Samuel tried to bribe Father Beltrán with drink, nuns, and money. This failed. On Jan. 1, 1994, Father Beltrán Mijangos was about to be murdered by the EZLN's assassins who, after burning down the mayor's office, sent a death squad to the cathedral when it was assumed that Father Beltrán would be there. Suspecting foul play, Father Beltrán didn't show up that day despite numerous phone calls urging him to appear. The priest who took his place would have been killed, had it not been for the fact that one member of the EZLN death squad shouted at the last minute, "No, it's not him, it's not him!"

A few weeks ago, a group of priests loyal to the bishop issued a statement saying that Father Beltrán was "not authorized" to give the sacraments or say mass, alleging that he was "undisciplined." Father Beltrán immediately responded in a radio message that "Comandante" Samuel Ruiz and his priests are the unauthorized ones because they are in rebellion against the Vatican.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, EIR correspondents attended a mass outside the chapel of San Cristóbal's municipal cemetery, held for 300 faithful. In his sermon, Father Beltrán spoke of love, even for one's enemies, and in between jokes about "my friend Samuel Ruiz," he called on all present not to be swayed by passion into seeking personal vengeance.

EIR: The Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) has identified Samuel Ruiz as the commander of the armed movement known as the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). We'd like your opinion on Ruiz's role in these activities.

Fr. Beltrán: What does Father Ruiz have to do with the armed movement? I have told both national and international media that he is the "comandante"! And I say this because of everything he's done since 1967 when he began to preach among the catechists. I have written proof to show how he's been proselytizing since 1978.

There were two phases: The first was to take sacredness out of the church. The second was to promote a "peoples' church."

At a certain point, both these phases became reality and the dimension of the magisterium of the Church was lost. Ruiz even shared his authority and called it "collegial author-