
Mexico

Targetting of Cardinal Sandoval Triggers Religious Warfare Potential

by Gretchen Small

The Synarchist strategy to set off a new religious war in Mexico exploded upon the country's political scene at September's close. Once again, Mexico is being polarized on religious grounds, as it was in the 19th Century, and again in the late 1920s Cristero War, each time with devastating consequences. Should this Synarchist strategy not be halted quickly, Mexico, already wrecked by two decades of financier looting, could quickly become ungovernable, and thus vulnerable to foreign intervention. This could include an oil grab, exactly as U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche has long warned international financial interests intend.

The trigger for the crisis was the splashy leaking to the Mexican media that a criminal investigation was underway against the Catholic Cardinal of Guadalajara, Juan Sandoval Iñiguez, on allegations of drug-money laundering. *Reforma* daily revealed on Sept. 11 that Mexican Attorney General Rafael Macedo had opened a judicial investigation into Cardinal Sandoval, his deceased mother, his ten siblings, and others associated with him. Instructions were sent to financial authorities and other security agencies, to investigate every bank account and financial transaction since 1996, which those under investigation might have had or made.

The Sandoval case was opened at the behest of Jorge Carpizo McGregor, Attorney General under President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-94). More than one of the officials appointed to police and judicial posts by Carpizo when he was in office, have since been jailed for proven links to the drug cartels; but now it is not Carpizo, but the Cardinal who is under investigation.

The case is based, reportedly, upon an *anonymous* document which Carpizo obtained and submitted to the current Attorney General's office in May 2003, which he claimed was prepared by an unnamed Mexican government intelligence agency. The apocryphal document is said to charge, not only that Sandoval and his predecessor, the murdered Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, were laundering drug money, but that they did so as part of a Vatican strategy to get drug dollars—"a third way of financing." Carpizo's document reportedly asserts that "Cardinal Sandoval Iñiguez is the Papacy's man for the full development of the project of financing the Church through funds of suspicious origin."

Besides the intended character assassination of Cardinal

Sandoval, the Carpizo/Salinas charges were shaped to taunt and provoke both the Cardinal, and far more extreme political forces within the Roman Catholic community of the Guadalajara region, into responding by escalating the confrontation along religious lines. The gambit has begun to work.

A march of tens of thousands of Catholics, organized in defense of the Cardinal on Sept. 28 in Guadalajara, was marked by the revival of the old war-cries of the Cristero War of 1926-29, which itself had begun in the region around Guadalajara. That war, which led to an estimated 24-30,000 deaths, was triggered by Synarchist forces who manipulated both sides of Mexico's religious fault-lines, the which go back to the 19th Century and earlier. (See "The Cristero War on Mexico: Synarchism Then and Now," *EIR*, July 25, 2003.)

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche stepped forward on Sept. 28, to warn all parties involved, that "in the name of anti-clericalism . . . very obvious international forces are moving again to try to provoke religious war in Mexico as a way of destroying that nation, as in the 1860s, and on several occasions following that." LaRouche emphasized that he, "as a Presidential candidate of the United States, and a defender of the Lincoln tradition in our relations with Mexico," would not remain silent. (See box.)

At several critical points in the recent past, leading Catholic Church figures, including Cardinal Sandoval himself, had intervened to stop similar operations which could have led to a revival of religious war. One such close call came when then-Presidential candidate Vicente Fox, today President of Mexico, raised the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe at a campaign event in September 1999, while using Cristero War slogans in his campaign appearances. At that time, the Cardinal of Mexico City, Norberto Rivera Carrera, had immediately issued a public statement, warning that the Virgin of Guadalupe belongs to all Mexicans, and "cannot be used for partisan purposes by anyone." Slapped by the church hierarchy, candidate Fox had backed off from his provocations.

After Fox was elected President in July 2000, right-wing Catholic political forces launched a campaign demanding that the incoming administration take up as its central task, overturning Mexico's prohibition of religious education in the public schools. Here, again, the intervention of Catholic lead-

ers—specifically, Cardinals Rivera and Sandoval—deactivated this political bomb before it could explode.

Sandoval announced on July 14, 2000, that the Fox government had more important problems to solve, before proposing any modification of Article Three of the Constitution, which oversees lay and universal education. The government needn't preach the Gospel, he said, for the government already has a mission: to provide for the needs of temporal society. Fox has many problems to deal with "before thinking about minor things," the Cardinal stated, such as "the extremely grave problem of the poverty of so many Mexicans, insecurity, a destroyed and abandoned countryside—these are things to which he must dedicate himself."

Now, however—with dramatic threats from international financial interests to the Fox administration, that unless it immediately crushes the still-fierce opposition to opening up both Mexico's oil and electricity to looting by foreign capital, Mexico will be obliterated economically—comes the Carpizo operation, targetting Cardinal Sandoval and the Vatican itself.

The operation has multiple objectives. As a typically nasty *Washington Post* article on the Sandoval charges took care to emphasize on Oct. 1, Sandoval sits on a committee that oversees Vatican finances. His name has also been mentioned, in recent years, as a potential candidate for Pope.

Within Mexican politics, Sandoval has been outspoken against the poverty caused by International Monetary Fund looting. He has publicly opposed, in particular, the privatiza-

tion of Mexico's electricity industry, warning that it would be "ominous if it passed into the hands of foreigners." In 1996, he raised questions about where the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) got its money, stating that he suspected "there are international interests involved," who seek control of the oil and natural resources located in the strategic crossing of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec where the insurgency is based.

In 1999, on the eve of Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico, Sandoval joined the select group of world leaders who have had the courage to take on drug legalizer George Soros by name. The Cardinal denounced Soros as a "criminal . . . wanted by Italian courts and publicly denounced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia as responsible for the financial collapse of Southeast Asia, a promoter of drugs," whose speculative operations have left "millions of unemployed, impoverished, and starving human beings on the planet."

Sandoval has also led a dogged campaign to uncover the truth behind the May 23, 1993 assassination of his predecessor, Cardinal Posadas. It is here where Sandoval has crossed swords with former President Salinas' Attorney General, Carpizo. Carpizo was Attorney General when Cardinal Posadas was murdered. Within minutes of the assassination, before any investigation had taken place, he declared that Posadas had been killed "by accident" in crossfire between two rival drug-trafficking bands. When forensic evidence proved that the 57 bullets fired on him and his car came from one

LaRouche Sept. 29 Statement

I express my concern about the attempt by some people to invoke the name of anti-clericalism, to stir up what would be recognized as a Cristero War atmosphere in Mexico. I, as a Presidential candidate of the United States, and a defender of the Lincoln tradition in our relations with Mexico, cannot ignore the fact that very obvious international forces are moving again to try to provoke religious war in Mexico as a way of destroying that nation, as in the 1860s, and on several occasions following that.

Furthermore, since Mexico is a bordering State with many close family relations across that border, we cannot fail to express concern against such relics of past antics of that same Synarchist International which has become increasingly active in targetting the Americas for destabilizations, as from international fascist leader Blas Piñar's bases in Spain, France, Italy, and elsewhere, since late 2002.

It is not to be overlooked that the Synarchist International, which is still active today, was the network which brought fascists such as Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, and

others to power during the 1921-1945 interval. This Synarchist International is a continuation of the same Martinist freemasonic cult behind both the Jacobin Terror and Napoleon Bonaparte's rule in France. That is the same cult represented by Napoleon III's installation of his puppet Maximilian as the virtual Adolf Hitler of early 1860s Mexico. We also know, that, during the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Nazi Party used a Spain-based Synarchist network inside Mexico for Nazi penetration of many parts of Central and South America. The Synarchist International's agents then included Paul Rivet, and Jean de Menil, and the Jacques Soustelle later used for such Spain-based operations as the attempted, fascist assassination of France's President Charles de Gaulle. This same network has been recently reactivated for operations including the targetting of Central and South America, around international figures such as Spain's Blas Piñar.

These activations of the Synarchist International were and remain a major, recently reactivated threat to the security of both Mexico and the U.S.A., among other nations. The targetting of the Cardinal is seen by experts in such matters as an attempt to reactivate a religious-warfare-like destabilization of Mexico.

direction only, and at close range, Carpizo modified the story, to say that the Cardinal (wearing his religious habit at the time) was mistaken by one drug gang for the top trafficker of their rival! That is still the official line on Posadas' murder. Since 1993, Sandoval has refused to let the case be closed, charging that the assassination was "a state crime," and those responsible must be brought to justice.

Falling Into the Trap

The leaking of the Sandoval investigation fell like a bombshell upon the Mexican political scene. Anti-clerical columnists are cheering the investigation of the Cardinal, attacking any opposition to the various illegalities involved in the operation (e.g., that it was opened on the basis of an anonymous document; that documents leaked from the investigation smeared the Cardinal as a narco before any proof had been presented; etc.) as an attempt by the Church to regain feudal privileges known as *fueros*, in which the Church effectively was above the law. The Guadalajara Archdiocese, for its part, has walked into the trap by responding, thus far, that this *is* a religious matter. The diocese's weekly, *Semanario*, speaks of renewed "persecution of the Church," and asked in its Sept. 21 issue, "What are we Catholics capable of doing in times of persecution?" The lay organizations of the Archdiocese called for the Sept. 28 rally in support of the Cardinal, under the cry, "Catholics, Awake!"

Estimates of how many thousands marched on the 28th vary wildly by the source: March organizers claim 60-80,000, while state agencies put the figure at around 20,000. People came from across the state of Jalisco (of which Guadalajara is the capital), and from the four neighboring states of León, Celaya, Michoacán, and Guanajuato. Many marchers chanted variations upon the innocuous "Cardinal, Friend, the People Are With You"; but a good number of others revived the war-cries used by the Cristero movement: "Viva Cristo Rey" ("Long Live Christ the King"); "God, Fatherland, and Freedom"; "Long Live the Cristero Martyrs"; and "Long Live the Virgin of Guadalupe." There are reports that Cardinal Sandoval himself greeted the marchers with "Viva Cristo Rey." Other slogans chanted by the marchers compared Carpizo to Plutarco Elías Calles, the President of Mexico during the Cristero War, hated for permitting the burning of churches and killings of priests.

One of the four contingents of marchers who converged on the Cathedral carried a gigantic banner, which read: "For God Even Unto Martyrdom. For the Fatherland Even Unto Heroism. And For Our Cardinal Even Unto Sacrifice." Another was led by one of the most reactionary of the PAN federal Congressmen, who carried a sign reading, "Before I Am a Politician, I Am a Catholic."

The Jesuit-dominated *Proceso* magazine asserted that the three PAN Federal Congressmen who participated in the march are all members of the so-called "El Yunque," a secretive ultra-rightwing reactionary lodge with powerful positions in and around the Fox Presidency.

Iran's Nuclear Energy: A Cheney Casus Belli?

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

"First Iraq; then come Syria and Iran." So runs the agenda of numerous neo-conservative think-tanks in the United States, planning the radical redrawing of the map in the entire region of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Whether it be Michael Ledeen of the American Enterprise Institute, or a wild-eyed ideologue at the Hudson Institute, among the many "rogue nations" in the world that make up so many "axes of evil," the Islamic Republic of Iran is high on the list.

Now that Iraq has been attacked, invaded and occupied, the neo-con juntas in Washington, London, and Tel Aviv have been gearing up for a strike on Iran. Mirroring the debate that preceded the Iraq war, the Iran debate is illustrated by several military scenarios, ranging from a military operation, to an internal subversion, each aimed to effect regime change. Another option foresees a single Israeli air assault on Iran's soon-to-be-operational nuclear power plant at Bushehr.

Also echoing the earlier drumbeat for war against Baghdad, the ongoing propaganda barrage is focussing on the issue of Iran's presumed programs for the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), particularly nuclear arms. Here, too, Washington's strategists have welcomed "intelligence" about Iran's supposed WMD from utterly discredited sources in the Iranian opposition. Just as Ahmed Chalabi and his Iraqi National Council fed cooked intelligence to the State Department and Pentagon—about Saddam Hussein's deadly weapons, missile delivery systems, and mobile laboratories—so the Mujaheddin al Khalq (MKO/MEK), a terrorist outfit which has been operating against Iran for years from Iraqi soil, has been feeding Washington's institutions and press, with "detailed reports" on Iran's nuclear weapons production facilities.

The material presented, though not more convincing than Colin Powell's Feb. 5 Iraq slide show at the United Nations, has helped fuel the campaign depicting Iran as the next Islamic nuclear threat to Israel and the world.

Iran's Nuclear Program

Unlike Iraq, Iran does have an advanced nuclear energy program, which it is pursuing in cooperation with Russia. This is the real issue. The first plant, at Bushehr, is scheduled to become operational next year.

Iran's nuclear program was started under Shah Pahlavi, who announced in 1974 that he intended to pursue an ambitious nuclear plan, installing 23,000 Megawatts (MWe) by the