

Long ago, in that distant year of Europe-wide revolution, 1848, Francis Joseph had come to power in a torn and distracted land. . . . The years rolled on, one after another bringing hammer-blows directly upon Francis Joseph's stout heart. His brother Maximilian was shot by the Church's sworn enemies at Queretaro in Mexico, on the Hill of the Bells."

What these oligarchists lost on the Hill of Bells they confidently believe they are now winning back through the PAN's 4 million votes and its open "mobilization for national insurgency."

The PAN's solidarist "Catholic Action" ideology is perfectly compatible with Nazism—as it was in the 1930s. Former PAN president José Angel Conchello avowed the connection immediately after he left his term of office (1972-75). In his own words:

The economic recovery program of the country [Mexico] needs the idea of a great banker: Hjalmar Schacht, director of the German central bank during the Hitlerian empire. We must invest work to create capital . . . among us what is abundant is our manpower, our desire, our will. (*El Universal*, Dec. 17, 1976.)

How to turn work into capital? Conchello passionately urged the establishment of Hitler's forced work programs (Arbeitsdienst), the forerunner of the concentration-camp system, in Mexico:

In Nazi Germany, the *Arbeitsdienst* was set up, the Forced Labor Service for youth, which was given an enormous boost, not just for its economic utility but also its educational content.

In countries such as ours where there is abundant manpower, we should create a "national manpower budget." . . . We can establish a mobilization of youth labor through conscription on Sundays or a national work service. . . .

The other principle which must orient our development is that of avoiding gigantism at all costs. . . . We require a program of small industry and small agriculture, incorporating millions of people in thousands of communities into active life. . . . It will be a hotbed of businessmen of modest means and organizers who, although they don't know fully how to read or count, will be useful to their families. It will keep the youth in their places of origin; perhaps help brake the human avalanche moving to the large cities. We will create a new generation of men rescued from rural neglect and from urban massification; they will not be inert masses, but as Teilhard de Chardin dreamed of, "cosmic energy personified." (*Agony and Hope*, by José Angel Conchello, 1978.)

GUATEMALA

The controllers of Ayatollah Ríos Montt

by Gretchen Small

A mass fundamentalist experiment is under way in Guatemala, begun with the coup of young colonels who installed Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt at the head of a new ruling junta on March 23. The sole ruler following his purge of rival junta members in June, Ríos Montt is a professed "born-again" fundamentalist, converted by the same Ukiah Valley, California cultists who created the Rev. Jim Jones. In four months of power, Ríos Montt has displayed the profound statesmanship of Jimmy Carter, the sentimental enthusiasm of Ayatollah Khomeini, and the rationality of Colonel Qaddafi.

The General is a preacher at the Church of the Word, an affiliate of the obscure sect, Gospel Outreach, which has its headquarters in Ukiah Valley. Ríos Montt's Sunday effulgences on Guatemalan TV are only one part of the show. Protestant fundamentalist missions representing some 22 sects have pumped dozens of missionaries and upwards of several hundred thousand dollars into Guatemala since March. American "born agains" such as Pat Robertson's lucrative "700 Club" broadcasts, have called on their listeners to offer prayers for the success of the new Guatemalan regime.

Certain members of the U.S. State Department and Reagan administration are busy promoting the image of the General as a change from the rather bloody record of previous Guatemalan rulers. General Ríos Montt's promises to clean up the death squads in the cities, wipe out corruption in military ranks, and rule with an evangelical touch has already opened the way for a resumption of U.S. military and financial aid to Guatemala, halted under Jimmy Carter's human-rights rubric.

A scorched-earth strategy

Ríos Montt's claim to govern by the grace of God has been accompanied by the declaration of a state of siege July 1 as the first step in what the General has called a "final war" upon guerrilla movements in the country. He has called up all reserves between the ages of 18 and 30 into the army, militarized life in the countryside with threats to put women and journalists under arms if deemed necessary, strictly censored reportage of internal events, and banned political activity by parties for two years.



Ríos Montt (c) in March 1982

The state of siege followed a one-month amnesty for anyone who turned in their weapons and the release of army officers previously convicted of "abuses in power" in their anti-guerrilla zeal. After July 1, Gen. Ríos Montt proclaimed, any Guatemalan found with an unauthorized weapon will be brought before special military courts, and executed by a firing squad in the center of the nearest town square.

One Texas fundamentalist missionary, now working closely with the Ríos Montt government, stated in an interview last month that "the display of force seen so far is only the beginning. This government is committed to use the necessary force to suppress anarchy. My friends tell me there is going to be a bloodbath in the next few weeks. . . . As in any war, a lot of innocent people will be killed."

The missionary went on to praise Ríos Montt as a "true believer." "We evangelicals," he explained, teach that people must "submit to the authorities that be," and Ríos Montt will assure that happens.

For some 28 years the same scorched-earth counterinsurgency strategy has been attempted in Guatemala, to greater or lesser degrees, never once bringing peace to the country. Ríos Montt himself estimated that some 150,000 people have died in the past 10 years of battles, in a recent interview with the *Financial Times* of London.

Destabilization of Mexico is a principal target of this new counterinsurgency campaign, not the restora-

tion of order. The number of Guatemalan refugees pouring across the border into Mexico has risen massively since the state of siege was imposed, Mexican government officials report. The Guatemalans are fleeing ceaseless helicopter and ground attacks along the border. With over 70,000 already estimated to have crossed into Mexico in the past year, "theology of liberation" operatives and Marxists in the south of Mexico are using these refugees as a base for organizing an uprising against the Mexican government.

'Walters's baby'

The Ríos Montt government is the special project of representatives of European oligarchy insinuated into positions of power in the State Department and U.S. intelligence circles, who have used Central America as a testing ground for depopulation warfare since 1979. Military distrust of Ríos Montt's "Ayatollah" posture has been quieted since the coup by pressure from Washington. The military has been told that if they wish to see U.S. aid, the General must stay in power.

Luigi Einaudi of the Propaganda-2 associated family of Milan, lodged in the State Department's Policy Planning Group for Latin America during a longer span of time than his fat associate, Henry Kissinger, is credited with still acting as the leading architect of Ibero-American policy. Another mole is John Negroponte, the current U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, now rumored as a possible replacement for Thomas Enders

as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

According to reliable sources in Congress, the Ríos Montt operation is "Vernon Walters's baby," as one source stated. Walters's role as Special Ambassador for the erstwhile Secretary of State Alexander Haig is only one aspect of his blackmail capability against the Guatemalan opposition to Ríos Montt; Walters has economic interests in Guatemala as well.

In 1979, one of his few years of unemployment as the official spook's spook within U.S. administrations, Walters worked for Basic Resources International, S.A. (BRISA) as a representative to the Guatemalan government. BRISA, owned by Anglo-French interests with a little Rockefeller money mixed in, was the first company to explore for, and find, oil in Guatemala in the mid-1970s, and it currently holds title to exploration and exploitation rights to about 1 million acres in the Franja Transvaal of Guatemala which borders on Chiapas, Mexico. In most of its years of operation, the company has been involved in disputes with Guatemalan governments, demanding easier terms and bigger tax breaks for its concessions.

The year Walters officially went on the payroll of the corporation, the director of Credito Varesino, an affiliate of Roberto Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano, joined the board of BRISA, while Sir James Goldsmith, a director of the Banque Rothschild who heads the French-based Générale Occidentale company and the Groupe L'Express publishing house, bought into BRISA.

Nominally, Walters resigned from all private positions upon joining the Reagan administration, but sources in Guatemala reported that as late as a May 1981 "silent mission" to Guatemala, Walters represented the interests of the company during his private meetings. (Walter's continuing relationship to the Calvi-centered interests broke into the public domain six months ago when reports appeared in the Italian press that General Walters had been dispatched to Italy to hush up the revelations that another Haig "adviser," Michael Ledeen, had been involved in payoffs for the terrorist-linked Propaganda-2 Masonic Lodge with which Calvi was prominently associated.)

Evangelical anthropologists

Ríos Montt's "bloodbath" is a fine-tuned experiment, bearing the markings of the planners who have set this process in motion. Behind the announcement that elections have been postponed two years is a plan to establish a corporatist state, London's *Latin American Newsletter* reported in mid-July. Relatives of Ríos Montt are proposing a form of government dubbed *equicracia*, in which a council of state with representatives of the private sector, military, Indian groups, and

government would rule. Economic policy is being developed by the Friedmanite ideologues of the Mont Pelerin Society, out of their Guatemala City center in the Francisco Marroquín University.

Most fundamental in the long term is the growing threat of religious war erupting in Guatemala off Ríos Montt's rule, pitting evangelical Protestant sects allied with the government against the nominally Catholic Theology of Liberation espoused by the leadership of the guerrilla groups.

An estimated 15 to 20 percent of Guatemala's population now considers itself evangelical Protestants, a striking proportion in a largely Catholic Ibero-American country, which developed over the past decade with an influx of foreign missionaries. Anthropologists busy observing Guatemala stress that evangelicism, functioning more as a "movement" than an organized institution, tends to expand its ranks en masse when whole villages follow a strong leader who converts—a profile that stands behind the decision to place a fruity evangelical in power.

The religious tags are only means to whip masses of Guatemalans into the fanaticism of both sides; the teachings and outlook of the Protestant fundamentalists are identical in substance to those of their opponents. Protestant evangelical work, like that of the left radicals, has targeted the "dialect-speaking peoples" in the country for recruitment—the Indians with anthropologists designing the preaching.

The work of World Vision, a financial backer of Ríos Montt's Church of the Word as well as other sects in Guatemala, is exemplary. Based in Pasadena, California, World Vision is one of the largest "non-denominational" centers of missionary work internationally, handling everything from refugee camps in Somalia, Cambodia, El Salvador, and Honduras, to running "leadership training centers" for new missionaries on every continent. World Vision's Summer Institute of International Studies in Pasadena trains its missionary students in "anthropology and cross-cultural communication," jargon for "respecting" poverty and bestialization. Its literature stresses that missionaries will "respect" the conditions in which they find people, since for them, "Christian development" requires reversal of "technological, bureaucratic society," and recognition that the world has limited resources. The dangers of "overpopulation" are not left out of the proselytizing.

A computer center is maintained in California to monitor fundamentalist missions internationally, hinting at the usefulness of these cult "missions" to intelligence networks. Called MARC, for Missions Advanced Research and Communications Center, the computer center is headed by "born-again" Air Force Intelligence specialists mapping the anthropological profiles provided by the fundamentalists.