

Alan Stoga, President

Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Interview

Ex-President de la Madrid rocks PRI establishment

Award winning journalist **Carmen Aristegui** broadcast the audio of an interview with former President **Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado** (1982-1988). During the 89 minute interview recorded on April 15, 2009, the former President accused his chosen successor **Carlos Salinas de Gortari** (1988-1994) of complicity in the corruption of his brother **Raúl** and other family members, and suggested that Raúl was involved in drug trafficking. Some of de la Madrid's answers were monosyllabic, but others were extended responses.

Ramón Alberto Garza [called it](#) an "unprecedented presidential confession" and said, "The rules of the game, the PRI code of silence, have been broken, profaned, and shown for what they are."

The interview set off an immediate, furious counterattack from Salinas (who is in London) and the PRI establishment. **Emilio Gamboa**, the PRI leader in the Chamber, [reportedly](#) visited de la Madrid at home. Eight hours after the broadcast, de la Madrid's office [issued a letter](#) under his signature disowning the interview, saying that he had been too ill to understand the questions and that his answers "lacked validity and precision." The former President is 76 and suffers from emphysema. Aristegui [responded](#) that the interview "was carried out with a man who was disposed to be there, with the time, the talent and sufficient clarity to express what he thought and what he knew about the Salinas de Gortari family."

Political scientist **Denise Dresser** [writes](#): "There are many paralyzed by fear. Many who are silent from complicity. ... The genuflection before the Great Corrupter continues as a result of the knowledge he has and the favors owed him. ... The matter of the Salinas family isn't an affair from the past. It affects the present and will determine the future. If the President and the Attorney General and the parties do not agree to investigate those who have power, they will underscore that here the laws do not apply to them."

The interview audio and partial transcript are available on [Reporte Indigo](#). Translated excerpts are on [our blog](#).

Key Dates

7/5: National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections.

10/18: Tabasco and Coahuila local elections

9/1: Start of new Congressional session; President delivers [Informe](#).

Ebrard 'unveils' himself as presidential candidate

In a Spanish-language Reuters interview, Mexico City mayor **Marcelo Ebrard** publicly acknowledged his desire to be President in 2012: "I always say: Why not? It depends on the work that we carry out [governing Mexico City] and the results that we achieve." He said the most likely scenario was a contest between himself and Mexico state governor Enrique Peña Nieto. Ebrard said that, as president, his principal objectives would be to rein in the power of big business, including Carlos Slim and Televisa, and to close the income gap between the richest and poorest parts of Mexico. Noted the *Templo Mayor* column: "Marcelo appears to be following the strategy of [Vicente] Fox: unveil oneself three years in advance." The *Bajo Reserva* column argued: "If anyone doubts the distance between Marcelo Ebrard and his sometime patron, **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**, his statements ... confirm it in spades. What Ebrard did was much more than an unveiling: the interview outlined the foundations for a government. Curiously, the 'Chuchos' [the PRD faction controlled by **Jesús Ortega** and **Jesús Zambrano**] were calm the day after, while the *lopezobradoristas* were beside themselves." ([Reuters 5/14](#), [Universal 5/15](#), [Reforma 5/18](#))

Security officials arrested; new narco banners appear

The recently ousted Minister for Public Security of Morelos state, **Luis Ángel Cabeza de Vaca**, and the police chief of Cuernavaca, **Francisco Sánchez González**, were arrested by the organized crime unit (SIEDO) of the Justice Ministry which is investigating narco penetration in the state by the **Beltran Leyva** cartel. SIEDO has carried out a series of sweeps since May 6. Separately, so-called narco banners appeared in prominent public spaces at least 10 states, many signed by the **La Familia** cartel. The messages were directed against President Calderón, Security Secretary **Genaro García Luna**, and other security officials. In Cuernavaca, a police commander and three other officers were arrested for personally putting up the banners on behalf of the Beltran Leyvas. ([Reforma 5/14](#), [AP 5/17](#), [Universal 5/18](#))

Brothers of Senator Monreal arrested on drug charges

Two brothers of Senator **Ricardo Monreal**, the head of the PT Senate bloc, were indicted on drug charges by the federal Ministry of Justice. They are the owners (along with the Senator's daughter Maria) of a large drying plant for chilies in Fresnillo, Zacatecas. In January, the army seized 14.5 tons of marijuana in the plant. One of the brothers arrested, David, is currently mayor of Fresnillo. A key ally of López Obrador, Monreal became the head of the PT Senate bloc in January without giving up his PRD affiliation. Today PRD secretary general **Hortensia Aragon** tried to distance the party from Monreal, saying that his affiliation ended when he joined the PT Senate caucus. ([Reforma 5/18](#))

TV Azteca tests limits of law, again

The cable TV chamber has brought a suit against **TV Azteca**, alleging that Azteca is illegally using government-owned frequencies to offer ten new high definition channels. The Federal Communications Commission, Cofetel, has opened an investigation. Observes columnist **Miguel Angel Granados Chapa**, "Too many times have we been struck by the lack of scruples of TV Azteca to be surprised by their way of doing business....In addition to infringing the law to multiply their channels, [TV Azteca owner] **Ricardo Salinas Pliego** puts himself forward as the champion in the fight against monopolies, even as they and Televisa completely dominate the market." ([Universal 5/15](#))