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IDS FOR ILLEGALS

Mexico's "Matricula Consular" Facilitates Illegal Immigration

WASHINGTON (January 28, 2003) -- "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."

These are the words of a top official in Mexico's foreign ministry, describing his government's piecemeal approach to securing an amnesty for the 8 to 10 million Mexican illegal aliens in the United States, a strategy adopted in the wake of the new security environment in the U.S. after 9/11. The foremost tool in this strategy is the "matricula consular," or consular registration card, that Mexico hopes will be accepted by governments and businesses across the United States, giving illegal aliens legitimate ID to present law enforcement and to open bank accounts, among other uses, thus helping bring about a de facto amnesty.

The Center for Immigration Studies has published the first in-depth examination of the matricula consular and the role it plays in Mexico's attempt to shape U.S. immigration policy: "IDs for Illegals: The 'Matricula Consular' Advances Mexico's Immigration Agenda," by Marti Dinerstein, a Fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies and President of Immigration Matters. The complete report is on line at <http://www.cis.org/articles/2003/back303.html>

- * The matricula consular is useful in the United States only for illegal aliens, because legal immigrants, by definition, have U.S. government-issued documents.
- * The Mexican government has launched an aggressive grassroots lobbying campaign to win acceptance for the matricula from state and local jurisdictions and from American banks, especially in areas where Mexican illegal aliens are concentrated.

While many jurisdictions have resisted pressure from the Mexican government to accept the matricula, others have not; it is now accepted by 800 local law enforcement agencies and 74 banks, as well as 13 states for purposes of obtaining a driver's licence.

Mexico's marketing of its consular cards is a direct challenge to U.S. sovereignty," Dinerstein said. "By aggressively lobbying state and local governments to accept them, Mexico is changing America's de facto immigration policy in lieu of congressional action.

- * Not only does the matricula subvert U.S. immigration law, it is not even a secure identity document. Mexico is not authenticating the documents used to obtain the matricula against computerized data files in Mexico.

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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SUBMITTED BY: Alan Culpeper

* Safeguards are not in place to prevent issuance of matriculas to the same individual; the INS has already reported finding multiple cards in different names issued to the same person. Those who lack any proof of identification are merely asked to "simply fill out a questionnaire" and the matricula card will be issued, as long as the Mexican government official is "satisfied that the person is who they say they are." The card is then issued for a nominal \$29 fee, which has become a valuable source of income for Mexican government operations in the U.S.

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* The matricula is becoming a shield that hides criminal activity, for two reasons: first, the holder's identity was not verified when the card was issued and second, police in jurisdictions that accept the matricula are less likely to run background checks on card holders picked up for minor infractions.

* The acceptance of Mexico's matricula consular sets a precedent, making it almost impossible to reject similar cards presented by illegal aliens from other countries, including those which have sent terrorists to the United States in the past.

The integrity of the matricula received fresh consideration just last week, when the U.S. General Services Administration suspended a pilot program in which a federal building in San Francisco accepted the matricula consular as valid identification to enter the building to access services. Additionally, in a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell earlier this month, 12 members of Congress questioned the spread of the card and called the lobbying by foreign consulates "a breach of international protocol deserving of a serious response by our government."

The irony is that Mexican banks do not hold the matricula in high regard as an identity document. No major bank headquarters in Mexico lists the "matricula consular" among the several official identification documents they accept to start accounts. Perhaps recognizing that this revelation could be embarrassing, on July 1, 2002, the Mexican Ministry of Interior instructed regional offices of the National Migration Institute that full recognition and validity be authorized for the matricula consular for identification purpose and for entry into Mexico. As of December 30, 2002, the document was being accepted in 10 of Mexico's 33 states.¹² According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, at least 78,000 illegal aliens from terror-supporting or terror-friendly countries live in the U.S.

They are among an estimated seven to eleven million illegal aliens who have crossed our borders illegally, overstayed visas illegally, jumped ship illegally and evaded deportation orders illegally.

More than 300,000 illegal alien fugitives, including 6,000 from the Middle East, remain on the loose despite deportation orders.

Last year, at least 105 foreign nationals suspected of terrorist involvement received U.S. visas because of lapses in a new background check system.

There is still no systematic tracking of criminal alien felons across the country. Sanctuary for illegal aliens remains the policy in almost every major metropolis

There are estimated 5 million+ illegal immigrants in California. They account for at least 15% of the state's population. Children of these illegal immigrants, technically not immigrants anymore (because they are not foreign born) constitute perhaps the largest single drain of California budget. Here are the figures. According to Laura E. Hill and Hans P. Johnson of the PPIC ([Download PDF file](#)), "between 1987 and 1991, total fertility rates [expected number of children per woman over her lifetime] for foreign-born Hispanics [in California] increased from 3.2 to 4.4", which more than doubled 2.1 replacement fertility rate for native Californians. (Per Steve Sailer, this illegal immigrant "baby boom" was triggered by the amnesty of 1986.) As a result, the percentage of illegal immigrants kids in public schools is more than twice their percentage (15%) of California's population, that is roughly 30% (well over 60% in highly populated areas of Southern California), simply because on average they had twice as many kids than natives. Since the K-12 total state enrollment is close to 6 million, that would yield an estimated 1.8 million of illegal aliens' children in California public schools. With average annual cost per student equal to \$9,100 ("What the deficit could buy" Orange County Register, Dec 22, 2002), the estimated budget expenditure for educating children of illegal aliens is over \$16 billion each year, almost half of current budget deficit. Here in Nevada we have an Estimated 33,000 illegal aliens in state costing natives 77 million per to teach English as a second language.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just

"The net cost of illegal immigration is \$70 billion a year." - George Borjas, Harvard professor. 2002

Illegal Immigration is estimated to cost Californians \$1,300 per household annually in additional taxes." -- Costly immigration, Paul Craig Roberts

"Illegal Immigration costs U.S. born workers \$133 billion a year in job losses." - Economics professor George Borjas

New poll: 85% of Americans say illegal immigration a "serious" problem
Issue 152: Apr 26, 2003

According to a Roper Poll released Tuesday by the United to Secure America Coalition, 85% of Americans consider illegal immigration to be a serious problem -- a majority believing it to be "very serious." Two thirds of us say the United States should actually set the goal of completely halting illegal immigration and should reduce the number of foreign nationals illegally residing in the United States to "near zero."

Furthermore, among that majority, a stunning four out of five respondents were willing to take very strong measures against illegal aliens, including "mandatory detention and forfeiture of property, followed by deportation."

If the Mexican consulate handed out Monopoly money and placebo pills to illegal aliens in the U.S., should our authorities, businesses and others accept the money as real and the pills as medicine?

U.S. Border Patrol: Matricula Card Worthless as ID, Could Benefit Terrorists, Criminals

Urges Police Chief to Not Accept Cards as Valid

FAIR 04/03

<http://www.fairus.org/html/07439403.htm>

April 17, 2003

Washington, D.C. -- The Mexican matricula consular card is a "worthless form of identification" that is being used by criminals to hide their true identities," says John D. Marlborough, a U.S. Border Patrol official in Southern California, in a recent letter to the San Bernardino County Sheriff.

The letter, urging the Sheriff not to accept the matricula card as a valid form of identification, charges that border patrol agents frequently encounter illegal immigrants [illegal aliens] possessing more than one valid "matricula" and recently came across a Mexican who "had in his possession 7 matriculas," all with his picture but different names.

Agents eventually learned that the Mexican national was in fact an alien smuggler with a long criminal history.

"Law enforcement agencies have been sold a bill of goods by the Mexican government, which has convinced them that matricula cards are being issued only after a person's identity has been verified," said Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for

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"What is much more certain is that a person presenting a matricula card without a valid immigration document, is in fact an illegal alien and is violating federal law by being here."

The issue is of growing importance in states with large populations of Mexican illegal immigrants [illegal aliens]. There are currently two bills before the California legislature that would mandate state-wide acceptance of the matricula card. The first bill, AB 522, requires "every city and county officer and employee" to accept the matricula card as "equivalent to a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles." The second bill, AB 25, would require state agencies to accept identification cards issued by any nation as "valid identification for a person."

On the heels of Mexico's success with the acceptance of the cards, Guatemala, Peru, China, Honduras and El Salvador are poised to issue the cards to their illegal alien citizens as well, enabling them to establish their identities, open bank accounts, transfer money, and board airplanes.

"The acceptance of these cards as valid ID is an invitation to terrorism and organized crime and absolutely endangers the lives and safety of the American public," added Stein.

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, at least 78,000 illegal aliens from terror-supporting or terror-friendly countries live in the U.S. They are among an estimated seven to eleven million illegal aliens who have crossed our borders illegally, overstayed visas illegally, jumped ship illegally and evaded deportation orders illegally.

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The Mexican government has been pushing state and local governments in the U.S. to accept the matricula card as a valid identity document, arguing that it allows Mexican citizens, most of whom are illegal aliens, to at least establish their true identities to police and authorities. But those who issue the cards are failing to ensure that the documents are valid or are issuing the cards without backup documentation at all.

Marlborough charges that Mexicans who lack any proof of identification are merely asked to "simply fill out a questionnaire" and the matricula card will be issued, as long as the Mexican government official is "satisfied that the person is who they say they are." The card is then issued for a nominal \$29 fee, which has become a valuable source of income for Mexican government operations in the U.S.

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