



## Colombian military frees M-19 controllers

by Valerie Rush

This week, the military command of the Colombian Armed Forces released from jail two key individuals charged with complicity in the activity of the terrorist M-19 guerrilla group that is currently holding 22 diplomats hostage in the Dominican embassy in Bogota. Tony Lopez Oyuela, a former judge of the Colombian Superior Military Tribunal, and Maria Cristina de Fals, wife of the renowned "leftist" sociologist Orlando Fals Borda, walked out of prison March 24, ending a 14-month detention. They had been charged with involvement in the M-19's spectacular January 1979 theft of four thousand guns from a military stockade in Bogota.

Most of the international press reported this as a sign of "softening" in the government's position toward the M-19 occupiers of the Dominican Embassy. There is "progress in the negotiations," the argument runs.

But the facts of the case confirm the *EIR's* contrary contention that the entire embassy takeover has been a carefully deployed charade from the start. Lopez Oyuela and Fals, far from being mere M-19 militants being "exchanged", are in fact two of the highest level *controllers* of the M-19 with demonstrable links into the Colombian military itself and into international Jesuit networks. In freeing them, the Colombian military was releasing two of their own, accomplishing the double purpose of lending further dangerous credence to the legitimacy and power of the M-19.

The evidence against Lopez Oyuela and Fals is overwhelming, and was elaborated at length in the *EIR Special Report*, "Iran Comes to Latin America." Below, we quote the relevant sections of that Report.

Two weeks ago the Venezuelan magazine *Resumen* published a report which revealed that Colonel Rojas Orjuela, second-in-command of the Bogota police force, learned of and forwarded to his superiors information on a planned assault on the Dominican embassy nearly two weeks prior to the M-19 takeover. The information was suppressed and, as is well known, no security was provid-

## The 'foreigners' organize the 'peasant uprisings'

*Rafael Fernández Tomas, a leading spokesman for the nationalist PST party of Mexico, warned in the March 17th issue of the Mexican daily El Dia, that reactionary "religious" forces in Mexico were being aided by Americans to destabilize Mexico. He revealed that peasant anti-government revolts are being organized by these groups and are targeting the crucial Huasteca oil fields.*

*The following are quotes from Fernández Tomas's article, headlined "The Risk of an Independent International Policy and Brzezinski's Views—Beware of the Provocations in the Huasteca."*

In the Huasteca, a dozen families have kept the best lands and introduced terror through thugs and the White Guards (name given to paramilitary groups—ed.)...In mid-July of 1979 a former army

sargeant appeared in the Huasteca leading a group of men armed with modern equipment, calling itself the "October 2nd" organization. He warned the townspeople about guerrillas in the zone. Nevertheless, during the ensuing ten months his actions have been directed exclusively against the peasant leaders who do not accept armed struggle. Coincidentally, none of these actions have hurt the large land owners...only the peasant leaders.

In tandem with the emergence of this group, religious groups have also appeared. They claim to be Germans, but it has been confirmed that they are Americans.

...Peasants from several towns in the area...agree that since mid-1979, a helicopter has been landing consistently in the mountains and it is public knowledge in this area that this helicopter as well as trucks are delivering arms.

At the end of last year, "Simon the German," a very tall and thin foreigner appeared in Huejutla, in Tlachinol and Chicontepec...This man repeatedly sought out the peasants of the region to tell them that to free themselves of their misery and ignorance "they should rise up in arms against the government."

ed the embassy that day. *Executive Intelligence Review* has independently confirmed that military intelligence in fact possessed the information and yet refused to take the appropriate security precautions.

### International media complicit

The two M-19 operatives have been set free at precisely the moment internal media have been building a climate of sympathy and acceptance towards synthetic terrorist creations like the M-19. Exemplary is the writing of *New York Times* columnist Tad Szulc who admits to having personally met with the M-19 last year and who describes them as "one of the strongest, most sophisticated, and most imaginative revolutionary movements in Latin America." He explains that its members are young idealist intellectuals from oligarchic families who reject their origins and who seek to create a "new politics" in their country. Writes Szulc, "the M-19 does not aspire to seize power nor to overthrow the current democratically-elected government in Colombia. Instead ... their objective is to demonstrate that the economic-social structure of Colombia and its political system is no longer viable...."

An interview with "Comandante Uno," the head of the M-19's embassy occupation squad—by the widely-read Colombian magazine *Cromos* reports that the M-19 does not consider itself either leftist or radical. "We are moderates," says the unabashed Comandante Uno.

The *New York Times* has also led a chorus of international media assertions that the M-19 is seeking to hold honest negotiations with the Colombian government and that it is in fact the intransigence of the Turbay administration which has sabotaged a successful resolution to the crisis. Articles quoting the hostages' "resentment" toward Turbay's hard-line have further contributed to an environment in which the Colombian president grows more and more vulnerable to the "advice" of the terrorist controllers within his own administration.

Despite its decision to release the M-19 suspects from jail, the military has not abandoned its option of an "Entebbe"-style raid on the embassy—even if that means sacrificing its terrorist pawns in a bloody showdown. Last week, the troops stationed around the embassy twice engaged in "simulated raid" exercises in full view of the M-19 terrorists, their terrified hostages, and the rapt international press corps staked out around the embassy. The exercises, recognized universally as deliberate provocation on the part of the military command, were conducted despite warnings that should such an assault be carried out, it would trigger terrorist retaliations not only in Latin America, but across the United States and Europe as well. For an Iran-style destabilization of the region to succeed, both options—the build-up of the M-19 as a credible social-protest movement and a bloody confrontation scenario—may well be employed.

## The dossier on the freed terrorists

*The following is excerpted from a dossier on M-19 operatives and their accomplices published in the EIR Special Report "Iran Comes to Latin America: The Bogota Embassy Takeover," dated March 16, 1980.*

**Tony Lopez Oyuela.** A former magistrate of the Superior Military Tribunal and chief of the Judicial Police of the political police (DAS). Lopez Oyuela was named to investigate the (1976) M-19 assassination of (Colombian labor leader) Jose Raquel Mercado.... In 1979, shortly after the M-19 arms robbery, Lopez Oyuela—one of the highest judicial officers in the entire military—was arrested for criminal collusion with the M-19.

It is known that sometime in the early 1970s, Lopez Oyuela underwent a political "conversion" from an "alvarista" conservative to a "progressive."

The evidence against Lopez Oyuela that has been made public includes the following: Lopez Oyuela was legal counsel to Produmedicos, the business front from which the M-19 dug the tunnel to the military camp to steal the arms. He is a close personal friend of the Arteagas [family] who ran Produmedicos and directed the left. Lopez Oyuela and Rafael Arteaga, now among the M-19's known leadership, previously rented professional offices together, and shared many of the same friends.

During the Mercado trial and investigation, Lopez Oyuela—who is regarded in Colombian labor circles as a CIA agent—was responsible for dismissing Teresa Valencia (Secretary of Women's Affairs for the CTC) from the trial as a key witness. In 1979, the authorities questioned Valencia on possible connections to the M-19, given her friendship with Lopez Oyuela and the Arteagas. At the time, statements made by Valencia indicated that, at the very least she knew who the M-19 kidnapers were.

**Maria Cristina de Fals.** Wife of the well-known leftist sociologist, Orlando Fals Borda, who was the close personal friend of guerrilla leader Camilo Torres. Fals Borda was also a cofounder of the leftist magazine *Alternativa* which has been identified as a conduit of M-19 propaganda. Maria Cristina de Fals was arrested in 1979 when it was discovered that she had purchased the house which was used by the M-19 to stash stolen military weapons.