

# Colombia's M-19 terrorists promoted by Socialist International networks

by Cynthia Rush

In mid-March, Ecuadorian and Colombian authorities delivered a major blow to the Colombian terrorist group, the M-19. A squad of seventy-five M-19 members was captured shortly after they had failed to carry out a military offensive in a Colombian town and crossed the border into Ecuador in hopes of escaping the Colombian military. Among those captured were leaders Carlos Toledo Plata, a former right-wing member of the Colombian National Popular Alliance (Anapo), and Rosenberg Pabón Pabón, the famed "Comandante Uno" who led the takeover of the Dominican Republic's embassy in Bogotá in February 1979. Both the press, the government, and other national political figures agreed at the time that the capture had destroyed M-19 as a threat to the nation's stability.

Yet now, even in jail, the M-19 is stronger than ever. The terrorists are virtually holding court in their cells, announcing future plans to bomb military and police installations; they have held numerous press conferences with ample and favorable coverage; and in their spare time, the terrorists organize performances of "revolutionary theater" and poetry readings for invited guests! Courtroom appearances have become farcical, with prisoners walking out when the judges make rulings they don't like.

The M-19's climb to national prominence is not an isolated event. The M-19's activities are closely coordinated with the hunger strikes, bombings and other violent acts carried out by the IRA in Ireland, the Baader Meinhof and Red Brigades in Western Europe, and the FALN in the United States. Like these groups, the M-19 relies on the international human rights lobby led by the British intelligence creation, Amnesty International, to coordinate its activities—inside jail and out—and ultimately to legitimize terrorism as a form of political protest. The conferring of a special, or "prisoner of war" status on jailed terrorists is a key step in this direction.

For Amnesty, the Socialist International, and their conduits in the international press, the M-19 has been a successful laboratory experiment. For two years, they have built up the group as Colombia's most important "nationalist" and "idealistic" young militants—while

simultaneously attacking the Colombian government of President Turbay Ayala for violations of human rights.

A first step in advancing this process was taken in February 1979 after the M-19 seized the Dominican Republic's Bogotá embassy and held several diplomats hostage. When Amnesty International and other human rights agencies got through "mediating" between the M-19 and President Turbay, government credibility was in a shambles and the terrorists emerged as national heroes. The message delivered to Turbay by the human rights crowd was that the government had better heed the M-19's call for "social reform," or it would face further terrorist upheaval and perhaps civil war. Amnesty later put those warnings down on paper in the form of a lengthy report documenting violations of human rights in Colombia.

National and international press have reported very favorably on the M-19's antics. As a result, the country is becoming dangerously polarized between those who support the M-19, and those who would obliterate it with a Chile-style military coup. The middle ground of democracy is rapidly disappearing—exactly as planned by the M-19's international controllers.

## Prisoners of war

Largely as a result of the international campaign on the M-19's behalf, the Turbay government has been forced to virtually concede that jailed terrorists are "prisoners of war." According to this argument, the group must then be judged by *international* law, rather than the statutes of Colombian law. The stage is thus set for an assault on the nation's national sovereignty by the same horde of human rights lobbyists who've been so successful in destabilizing Colombia in the past.

The M-19's behavior as "special" prisoners has been so outrageous that the Bogotá daily *El Tiempo* noted sardonically on April 10 that "soon we will have to ask their forgiveness for having captured them at all!" The terrorists' jail cells have become headquarters from which to preach the "Colombian Revolution . . . with booze, music and the Virgin of Carmen," as one jailed M-19 member told an interviewer recently. "We'll do it

our way . . . with no foreign influence, and no rigid conceptions."

Predictably, the M-19 has already received the support of such proterrorist figures as writer Gabriel García Márquez, who just fled Colombia to avoid being questioned by the military on his own ties to the M-19.

Also significant is the fact that the Colombian Communist Party—previously a staunch opponent of terrorism—is increasingly supportive of the M-19. Among a group of 19 lawyers recently chosen to defend the M-19 guerrillas is the famed Communist senator and lawyer Humberto Criales de la Rosa, who has never defended terrorists like the M-19 in the past.

The Communists are not the only ones hopping on the M-19 bandwagon. Trade-union leaders of national prominence, such as those of the UTC Federation—a conservative grouping hardly known for harboring leftist sympathies—have visited the jails to hold "dialogue" with the M-19 members, giving them even more public credibility. By visiting with the M-19, the trade unionists have also opened themselves up for attack by such right-wing military spokesmen as Defense Minister Camacho Leyva, who recently stated that any trade-union leader who fraternized with guerrillas deserved to be shot. The outcome has been the total polarization of Colombia's political life.

Support for the M-19 has come from factions within the Colombian military as well. General Fernando Landazábal Reyes, the right-wing head of the army who recently threatened President Turbay with a coup if he dared leave the country on a diplomatic trip to the U.S.S.R., strengthened the M-19's cause when he characterized the 75 captured guerrillas as "prisoners of war." Landazábal, who had to take a foreign diplomatic post in 1976 because of suspected involvement in coordinating domestic terrorist activities, recently described terrorism as the product of "economic and social problems" in the society.

President Turbay responded sharply and correctly to Landazábal's characterization. He told the press on April 6 that "if we were to accept the thesis that social problems justify subversion, we would reach a point where two-thirds of the world would have to be up in arms against their legitimate governments."

The president's statement, however, was almost immediately overshadowed by the press conference given a few days later by captured M-19 leader Carlos Toledo Plata. Called to dispel rumors that the terrorist leader had been killed by the military—the press and domestic human rights lobby had been demanding evidence that Toledo Plata was alive—the press conference served as the M-19's forum for espousing Third World insurrection against the "reactionary Reagan government" and for urging all "serious Colombians . . . to follow the path of armed struggle."



## García Márquez comes to the M-19's defense

Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez has once again intervened on behalf of international terrorism and the Socialist International's strategy for Third World insurrection. Following the mid-March arrest of 75 M-19 members in Ecuador, García Márquez protested that the arrests, the extradition of the terrorists, and the Colombian government's refusal to grant a full amnesty to the guerrillas, was a manifestation of Reagan administration policy toward Latin America.

Continued failure to heed the M-19's demands for "social reforms" which, coincidentally, match those put forward by the Brandt Commission, would result in civil wars and "national liberation struggles" throughout Latin America. If the United States wants to avoid such upheavals, García Márquez stated, it would do well to accept Willy Brandt's recommendations to let leading Socialist International figures "mediate" the conflict in Central America.

García Márquez's actions date from the late 1960s, when he gained international fame with the publication of his bestselling novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Since then, he has affiliated himself with the institutions that control international terrorism and profile populations slated for Iran-style "revolutions."

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* itself was a sophisticated profiling of Colombia like the psychological warfare studies of Britain's Tavistock Institute. The novel

portrays the highly political Colombian population as an endemically violent people trapped in an irrational "Macondo" world of violence and counterviolence, incapable of development. Carrying forward the "Macondo" profile, García Márquez claims a Colombian revolution will be "con pachanga"—with a wild party.

García Márquez continually glorifies this degraded view of the Colombian population. He told the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* that he was "proud" of his country's capacity to produce large quantities of marijuana. "But don't be shocked," he told *Corriere* journalist Enzo Biagi. "Mine are a people who always find a way to survive."

### Defending the M-19

García Márquez's defense of terrorism extends beyond his role as an active leftist literary figure, however. While the novelist claims that terrorism is a "sterile" form of political struggle, he nonetheless hastily fled Colombia on March 25 when he learned that military intelligence wished to interrogate him on his ties to the M-19 terrorists. One rumor circulating in Bogotá at the time was that the military possessed copies of correspondence between M-19 leader Carlos Toledo Plata and García Márquez and that the writer had also helped the M-19 acquire arms for its failed military offensive in March.

According to a source in Mexico City, García Márquez has willingly given "financial and moral support" to the Colombian Studies Center, whose students are known to be members or supporters of the M-19. He helped the center obtain legal status and has made clear that he is willing to aid "real revolutionaries" like the M-19.

Perhaps for this reason García Márquez offered enthusiastic support for the proposed presidential candidacy of Jaime Batemann Cayón, M-19 commander-in-chief who is still underground. The novelist called for

the government to grant the terrorist group a full amnesty to allow it to become a "legitimate political party." And even if Batemann didn't win, his candidacy "could pose some different solutions and create some interesting disquiet in the country." Repeating the M-19 warnings, García Márquez said that if the government fails to grant the amnesty, the country could be plunged into civil war.

García Márquez is part of the literary jet set whose "human rights" crusades are merely a cover for coordinating and defending terrorist activities. He is a member of the flagrantly proterrorist Bertrand Russell Tribunal which has most recently trained its sights on Mexico for Iran-style destabilization; he is a close personal friend of former CIA agent Philip Agee, whose first book he translated and distributed throughout Latin America; and he is seen frequently in the company of British spy novelist Graham Greene, who regularly corresponds with British triple agent Kim Philby, now a KGB general.

For years, García Márquez has worked with Amnesty International, the "human rights" agency that has orchestrated the destabilization of countless nations, Colombia included. While he still collaborates with the London-based Amnesty, García Márquez has formed his own group, Habeus, to deal specifically with human rights violations in Latin America.

The writer's frequent trips to Cuba, where he reportedly "only discusses literature" with good friend Fidel Castro, suggests his role in coordinating the Socialist International's strategy for fomenting Third World insurrection against the advanced sector—particularly directed against the Reagan administration. In an April 1 interview with Colombian journalists, García Márquez modestly suggested that if the United States accepted the Socialist International's mediation proposal for Central America, he would be happy to serve as a negotiator.



### Iran Comes to Latin America: The Bogota Embassy Takeover

#### An Executive Intelligence Review Special Report

In this exclusive report, the *EIR* provides full documentary evidence that the Colombian "M-19," the first terrorist group to threaten the Reagan administration, is run by a faction of the Colombian military and the Society of Jesus. It examines the role of the Jesuit "theology of liberation" in the plans to "Iranize" Latin America. Price: \$100.00. The report may be ordered through Peter Ennis, (212) 247-8498.