

Andean anti-drug fighters smoke out the pushers in continental crackdown

by Susan Welsh

The governments of South America's Andean region are stepping up their drive against the "narco-terrorism" which is threatening to turn the continent into a drug plantation. Seven foreign ministers will meet in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Sept. 11-12 to implement the Front Against Narcotics Trafficking which was inaugurated at a summit conference Aug. 11 in Quito, Ecuador. The communiqué issued from that meeting denounced drug trafficking as "a crime against humanity."

Backing up these official moves are the political educational activities of the Andean Labor Party (PLAN) in Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru. The PLAN is known as the continent's most ferocious opponent of the drug mafia, and its Colombian branch created an international sensation in August when it smoked out the role of former Colombian President Alfonso López Michelsen in fronting for the drug-runners (PLAN investigators helped prepare *EIR*'s Aug. 14 cover story, "New 'Patty Hearst' abduction tied to Colombian ex-President.")

Now the PLAN has drawn blood in Peru, as its current electoral registration effort is being publicly opposed by the drug lobby's top political protectors. Senate President and former Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa on Aug. 27 ordered news media under his control to unleash an all-out attack on the PLAN-Peru. Ulloa, known as a "Rockefeller man," is also an intimate of Henry A. Kissinger. Channel 5 television and Radio Programas de Peru, both under his personal control, and the pornographic magazine *Caretas*, run by an in-law of acknowledged drug-runner Luis Malpartida Flores—one of Ulloa's closest associates—simultaneously issued denunciations of the PLAN's electoral registration drive. Wrote *Caretas*: "The fanatical followers of the eccentric politician Lyndon LaRouche, or Lyn Marcus, have set up tables with the object of surprising passersby. They force them to sign papers rejecting drugs which, in fact, are electoral petitions for the Andean Labor Party, a fraud through which they intend to enter into national political life." The magazine urged the government to take action against the PLAN-Peru.

At the same time, the law for registry of new parties was suddenly changed—in the middle of the registration period. The number of signatures required was more than doubled, to 100,000, and the deadline moved up two months, to Oct. 14. The sole purpose of the shift was to prevent the PLAN-

Peru from gaining official status.

Why should Ulloa and company react so strenuously to the PLAN-Peru's war on drugs? A clue is provided by an interview which the Senate president gave earlier this year with the magazine *Debate* lauding the alleged medicinal and hygienic potential of the coca plant (from which cocaine is derived), and expressing the hope that, from the standpoint of revenues, it "could perhaps come to have a similar importance to tea and coffee." This, he said, might open up "unsuspected horizons and allow for the channeling of the greater part of coca production to a legal market."

Peru on the brink

The fight between Ulloa and the PLAN-Peru comes at a desperate time for the nation, as the government is under siege by the Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) narco-terrorist guerrilla group and its defenders from the *New York Times*, Amnesty International, and the Peruvian left. The Shining Path has a frequently demonstrated its capability to paralyze the country by knocking out the electric power grid, and it perpetrates wanton massacres as a matter of routine. Early in August, a group of the terrorists assaulted a town in Huanta province, murdering more than 50 residents, including women and children. Two children who survived the massacre told the press that seven terrorists ran through the town screaming: "Miserable traitors to the cause. Everybody will die like gutless sheep." They stabbed their victims' bodies repeatedly, eviscerated them, then bashed in their heads with rocks.

Such horrible scenes are recounted every day in the Peruvian press. Shining Path seizes a town, appoints new local governors, and sets up "popular courts" to "judge" the victims. The Peruvian government says that 4,000 have died since the guerrillas launched their bloody anti-government activities three years ago.

The effort by the government and the military to crack down on the terrorists has triggered a great international hue and cry about "violation of human rights," spearheaded by *New York Times* correspondent Marlise Simons and Amnesty International.

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry denounced this as an "international conspiracy" against Peru in a speech Aug. 31. He accused foreign journalists of building a "pub-

'Shining Path' threatens Argentine parliamentarians

The "narco-terrorist" group Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) is extending its reach outside Peru and has recently sent death threats to three prominent Peronist deputies in Buenos Aires, warning them to abandon their defense of Argentina's nuclear program, singling out the agreements for cooperation in the nuclear field which Argentina has signed with Peru. The three targeted deputies are outspoken defenders of Argentina's vanguard nuclear program.

The letter, addressed to Cesar Araoz, Mario Gurioli, and Carlos Basualdo, states: "Enough of the nuclear program, the defense budget, the arms industry, enough of talks on sovereignty, and of nuclear agreements." The letter concludes with the threat, "Shut up or we will shut you up," and is signed "F.A.L.—Sendero Luminoso."

The letter appeared several weeks before a scheduled visit to Argentina by the corpulent Henry Kissinger (a.k.a. "*Sendero Voluminoso*"), who is notorious among developing sector countries for his heavy-handed threats against leaders who presume to develop an independent nuclear-power capability. Kissinger once warned former Pakistani President Ali Bhutto on this account: "We will make a horrible example of you"—and some years later Bhutto was executed.

Shining Path guerrillas have reportedly infiltrated the northern part of Argentina and are bringing in arms. It is also expanding its operations into Chile via Bolivia, planning to blow up aqueducts and incite chaos during Chilean protest demonstrations planned for Sept. 4-5. The Peruvian interior ministry reports that pro-Sendero propaganda is now being circulated in Spain, France, and England.

licity machine" to slander the government and the country. These "pseudo-reporters," he said, are "the accomplices of terrorism with jackets and ties." They ask for meetings at the presidential palace, not to record authentic statements, but "to turn them upside down and damage the republic." Alongside this propaganda of the foreign press, Belaunde said, is the introduction of counterfeit money to debilitate the national economy—the same techniques the Nazis used to try to destroy Great Britain during World War II.

With such foreign support, a vital threat to the Belaunde government and to the institutions of civilian rule in Peru is now being mounted. Two thousand leftist demonstrators clashed with riot police in Lima Aug. 24 in a protest against

alleged abuses by the military, defying a government order that had placed the city under military control for the day.

Army Gen. Adrian Huamán, the officer in charge of the emergency zone in the Andes where the guerrillas operate, was ousted Aug. 27, amid a growing climate of left-right confrontation. The general had been handling the problem in the right way, by insisting on the need for an economic development strategy for the region, in defiance of the austerity demands of the International Monetary Fund. Just before he was sacked, Huamán told journalists: "If defeating the subversion were a purely military matter, I would solve it in minutes. If it were a question of killing, Ayacucho would not exist in half an hour, and neither would Huancavelica [guerrilla strongholds]. We are speaking of human beings, of forgotten villages which have been crying out for 160 years, and nobody has listened, and now we are reaping the result." If this backwardness persists, he said, the region will become "another Nicaragua."

Quito resolution gains ground

Every country in the Andean region is now locked in battle with the narco-terrorists, as the joint presidential declaration of the Quito summit attests.

In Venezuela, Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul has revealed the text of the government's anti-drug resolution that will shortly be presented to the United Nations and the Organization of American States for universal adoption. The document affirms that "drug trafficking is a serious crime against humanity," and calls for "international legislative action capable of directing effective action against the trafficking and consumption of drugs," including tough extradition laws and the creation of an international fund to provide developing countries with the resources to combat and defeat the causes of the drug traffic.

The Andean Labor Party of Venezuela has received extensive press coverage for its demand that the government investigate the role of the Gnostic Church of Venezuela in promoting narco-terrorism. The PLAN-Venezuela pointed to the role of Walter Márquez, a member of the congressional Anti-Drug Commission, who is also a high official in the Gnostic Church. Márquez was elected to Congress as an independent on the slate of Venezuela's leading left-wing "green" party, the MAS.

In Bolivia, the most impoverished country in South America and also the greatest raw-cocaine producer, the government has sent the army to smash up the cocaine labs north of Santa Cruz and is spurning the mob's cynical offers of "cooperation." "Cocaine King" Roberto Suárez is offering a multi-million dollar credit to the government in return for a guarantee that he would never be extradicted to face cocaine trafficking indictments in the United States. The Quito summit has designated Bolivia as the first country to receive financial assistance once an anti-drug fund has been established.