

Gnostic sects ready attack on the Pope

by Gretchen Small

Collaborating in setting up the assassination of Pope John Paul II during his trip to four Ibero-American countries Jan. 26-Feb. 5 are the two allegedly competing flanks of the oligarchy's Gnostic heresies on the continent: the "leftist" enthusiasts of Theology of Liberation and the "anti-communist" crusaders of the schismatic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and his followers in Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP).

According to U.S. intelligence sources, a \$30 million war chest has been put together to pay for the murder of the Pope in Peru. The financial arrangements for the contract are being run through the TFP, but the actual hit has been assigned to the Peruvian branch of South America's "left" guerrillas, Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*).

Preparations against the Pope's trip began publicly in November, during Archbishop Lefebvre's tour of Ibero-America following the banning of the TFP by the Venezuelan government. On Nov. 24, Lefebvre told the press in Lima that the religious and political motives behind the Pope's upcoming trip to Ibero-America were "cause for doubt and scandal" for faithful Catholics who "defend the true principles of the Church taught by Jesus." He stated that he was in Peru to establish a branch of his movement.

Theology of Liberation networks have since picked up the public denunciations of the Pope's visit. Jesuit priests in Callao, Peru, one of the places the Pope will visit, are telling parishioners that the Pope is a "CIA agent" because of his efforts to curb Jesuit priests in Nicaragua. Now, one week before the Pope's arrival, Shining Path's "intellectual" protectors have launched a campaign to strip the Pope's security during his visit to Shining Path's major stronghold in the country, the city of Ayacucho. Speaking at a meeting of human-rights associations in Lima Jan. 23, the mayor of Ayacucho, Laura Zamora, and the man considered the intellectual founder of Shining Path, Efraín Morote Best, demanded that strict security measures planned around the Pope in Ayacucho be lifted so that the Pope could walk among the people and learn about the alleged violations of the human rights of terrorists in Peru.

At the same time, the Peruvian magazines *Equis X* and *Caretas* report that Shining Path has rescheduled its second major offensive to coincide with the Pope's trip to Lima and his brief pass through Ayacucho.

Collaboration between these networks was also evident in Venezuela. The TFP was legally banned there on Nov. 13,

1984, following denunciations of the cult's paramilitary training, inculcation of hatred of the Pope, and brainwashing methods of young recruits, by ex-members, parents of members, and government officials. Church and government concern over TFP activities in Venezuela has continued, even after the banning. In December, eight members of Opus Dei, whose leaders in Venezuela had been pressuring for TFP members to be placed beside the Pope on the reviewing stand during his visit, were removed from the Church's organizing committee for the Pope's trip.

During the investigation into the TFP, according to some sources, the head of the Opus Dei in Venezuela, José Rodríguez Iturbe, had attempted to protect *both* the TFP and the Gnostic Church, which runs the Colombian branch of the "left" guerrilla movement, the M-19. Rodríguez Iturbe, using his position as a congressman for the Christian Democratic Copei party, argued that any investigation into either the TFP or the Universal Christian Gnostic Church in Venezuela would be an attack on "religious freedoms." Instead, he demanded that the government investigate the associates of American political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche in the Venezuelan Labor Party, because they had denounced a deputy from the MAS (Movement to Socialism) party, Walter Márquez.

Rodríguez Iturbe objected to the Venezuelan Labor Party's demands that Márquez, a bishop of the Venezuelan branch of the Universal Christian Gnostic Church, be investigated for his connections to the Colombian Gnostic Church, which had been exposed as the protectors of the M-19 guerrillas and the drug-trade.

Rodríguez Iturbe's efforts to simultaneously defend the M-19 and the TFP coincided with the publication of information revealing connections between Rodríguez Iturbe's boss, Copei leader Rafaél Caldera, and the terrorists of Libya's Colonel Qaddafi. On Jan. 20, the Libyan People's Office of Caracas placed an ad in the Caracas daily *El Nacional* denying any intention of murdering the Pope, following a one-line report in the afternoon daily *El Mundo* that Venezuelan security officials were watching the Libyan-financed Venezuelan Center of Socialist Studies as a possible source of a hit on the Pope. Protesting mightily, the embassy statement held up as proof of its good feelings for the Pope the fact that Qaddafi's Libya had sponsored a Muslim-Christian dialogue in which former President Rafaél Caldera had "played an important role."

On the eve of the Pope's trip, these Gnostic networks are calling for open rebellion against the Vatican. Leading Liberationist ideologue Leonardo Boff, based in Petropolis, the home seat of the Bragança dynasty, wrote in the pages of the Peruvian magazine *Equis X* on Jan. 23 that the "non-European churches" can no longer accept the leadership of Rome. A Lefebvrist priest on the streets of Bogota, angered by supporters of Pope John Paul II, cried out to startled policemen and passersby: "The Pope must be killed like a sewer rat."