

## Interview: Alejandro Peña



# Venezuelan Labor Party challenges the drug traffickers

*Alejandro Peña is secretary-general of the PLV (Partido Laboral Venezolano) in Venezuela, a new party which has been the subject of great controversy in recent weeks. The party has been attacked for association with Lyndon LaRouche, slandered by press outlets in Venezuela as "another Charles Manson." The background to this is that LaRouche, EIR's founder and chief executive, commissioned the book Dope, Inc., The New Opium War, which came out in January in Spanish. The book's exposure of figures, families, and funds long thought "above suspicion" so terrified the Venezuelan dope lobby that it moved illegally to ban the book.*

*EIR interviewed Peña by telephone from Caracas.*

**EIR:** You and your party have been the subject of controversy. What's happening in Venezuela?

**Peña:** First, you have to talk about Ibero-America, because Venezuela is just part of this. We're really in a crisis. In Ibero-America, there are 80 million unemployed, and it is clear that it is getting worse. What you have seen in Ethiopia this last year, you are next going to see across Ibero-America. There is an external debt that Ibero-America simply cannot pay—\$350 billion. The service on that debt, alone, we couldn't pay. We have to do something fast if we expect to avoid a repeat of Ethiopia here.

We are calling upon honest people in the United States who understand that human life is worth defending to battle with us to save life on this continent.

**EIR:** What is Venezuela's economy based on?

**Peña:** Right now in Venezuela, we import 70% of what we eat. Anywhere in the world, that's an emergency. For 95% of its income, the country depends upon the export of oil. You know, of course, the price of oil has gone down. It's going to continue to go down, after winter is over in the United States and Europe. A third of our national income, 33%, goes to pay the interest on that external debt. There is only 67% remaining to pay the regular costs of a country, to pay hospitals, schools, government, and transportation. There is nothing left for investment in things that will make profit—infrastructure, technology, and energy development.

We have 16 million people; 80% of the population is under 40 years old. Under these circumstances, to have 1

million of these unemployed, and combine this with the situation with food and oil—this place is a powder keg.

**EIR:** Are people in Venezuela aware of what is going on?

**Peña:** People know something is very wrong; they know it because the price of food is going up; they can't get jobs, they go to the public hospitals and can't get medicine, because many times there isn't any. But they don't want to grasp that it is going to get a great deal worse unless we do something. They don't understand the economic causes—interest rates and flight capital.

Henry Wallich testified in the United States that 90% of the credit that Venezuela received from 1974 to 1982 left the country; it went back to other, more "stable" countries. Understand though, that we are paying interest on this credit that left the country as soon as it got here.

**EIR:** Who is doing this?

**Peña:** It is being done because of the wrong policies of the International Monetary Fund and the people behind it, who are termed in your country the Eastern Establishment—in combination, of course, with a large group of traitors in this country. I don't want to say specifically who these traitors are right now. But there are people here who have contributed to the money leaving the country. Some of the information given in the national press here is that the amount of money that these traitors have in overseas banks is about \$34 billion. Guess what the Venezuelan external debt is? Pretty close to \$34 billion. Now compare this to what the income in oil here is, which is about \$15 billion a year. We have a debt which is more than double our national income. And we have traitors who have that same quantity in overseas banks.

David Rockefeller came here a couple of weeks ago to say that the conditions in this country are not good enough to invest. This can provoke more capital flight out of the country. Rockefeller, of course, visited with certain people here who own certain enterprises.

Our party has been slandered for working with Lyndon LaRouche, but it is important that this is understood: LaRouche's proposal, *Operation Juárez*, is the *only* solution to this mess. It is important for the people of the United States to understand that if we continue to pay this debt, that not

only is our economy and our democracy going to be destroyed, but banks are never going to recover their investment here. It's not just us; we are talking about the whole international economy. The whole thing is about to explode. We must form a debtors' cartel in Ibero-America and then negotiate with the banks for an arrangement by which we can develop our countries. Ibero-America is incredibly rich: We have minerals, we have water, energy; this continent is a potential paradise. With the great projects that LaRouche has on the drawing boards, this country will explode into a technical and scientific renaissance. We have the potential of gearing this up, and once we do this, it will permit us to pay this external debt.

We have to have low interest rates, long-term loans, and most of all, technology transfer from the United States.

**EIR:** You have been in on the ground floor of establishing a new political party in Venezuela?

**Peña:** This new political party, Partido Laboral Venezolano, the PLV, is composed of primarily younger people, primarily professionals, engineers, workers, and artists, Venezuelans who have taken on the responsibility of fighting for a country that is falling apart.

Legally, we have been in existence for less than a year. Six months ago we secured a permit to begin circulating petitions to sign up members. We secured 40% over the signatures we needed from the most populated part of Venezuela which is around Caracas; this is the federal district. We got over 30% more than we needed in the very large state of Amazonas. In late January, we submitted these signatures to the Supreme Electoral Committee, and we are waiting for the committee's answer. Across the board, we filed more signatures than were needed.

The attacks that we have been receiving in the last few weeks, we believe, are because people fear the success that we have achieved in really a very short time. We weren't attacked at all until we filed for status as a political party. We have been successful, but it's because the rest of the political parties here have no proposals to save the country. We are not an opposition party, I explain to people; we are a proposition political party, we are proposing the ideas on which people here can unite in order to save the situation. Henry Carey did it in the United States; we plan to do it here.

**EIR:** What did you do in Venezuela before you began forming this political party?

**Peña:** I'm a mechanical engineer; I graduated from a very good university here—Simon Bolivar University. I also got a masters in business administration. I had several of my own companies, which were involved in construction and development. I had to travel all over the country as a developer, so I became a pilot also. I was also at one time the Venezuelan national karate champion. I realized that even though I was doing well, one's personal project really doesn't have much value if his country is falling apart.

**Special Offer**



**WE'VE GOT THE GOODS...**

**...ON HENRY KISSINGER**

*EIR has the world's fattest dossier on the man who personifies what is wrong with the government of our country. Photocopies of the best of our coverage over the years—including many rare and out of print stories—are now available as a special package, for only \$100. Including:*



- "Kissinger boasts of three decades of treason," June 1, 1982
- "New evidence of Kissinger's role in Aldo Moro murder," Aug. 17, 1982
- "Reopening the Kissinger file," Sept. 21, 1982
- "Kissinger a fugitive from Italian justice," May 3, 1983
- "Kissinger's treason laid before U.S. Senate," May 3, 1983
- "How Kissinger tricked President Nixon on Soviet beam weapons," June 7, 1983
- "Kissinger sellout plan throws Europe into shock," March 27, 1984

*... also—Kissinger's threats against Pakistan's President Bhutto, his plan to partition Lebanon, his Soviet connections, and more!*

Enclosed please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Kissinger Dossier.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mastercard/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: EIR Research, Inc.  
1010-16th St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 955-5930