

EIR International

Panama and Peru targeted by panicked U.S. bankers

by Valerie Rush

Both Panama and Peru, the nations leading the fight to defend economic national sovereignty against the drug-trafficking terrorists and their international banker friends, are being hit by a brazen campaign to overthrow their respective governments.

A "top secret" document prepared by Panamanian military intelligence and leaked to the international media on Oct. 8 charges that U.S. State Department officials, U.S. political figures, and members of the Panamanian "opposition," have put together a plan to create the conditions for a U.S. troop invasion to reestablish International Monetary Fund control over Panama. The plot is designed to overturn the new Panamanian President Eric Delvalle, who took office after the Fund's unpopular stooge, Nicolás Ardito Barletta, was forced to step down on from the presidency on Sept. 28.

According to a cable released by EFE wire service, "The document reports on a seditious scheme against institutional stability and the democratization process in the country, against the independent economic model proposed by Torrijismo [after the late nationalist leader of Panama, Omar Torrijos] and against Panamanian participation in the Contadora Group and an independent foreign policy. The document adds that the plot involves State Department encouragement of local opposition to create disorder, to culminate in a call for "intervention of forces capable of reimposing a 'new order,' a role to be carried out by U.S. troops stationed in the Canal Zone."

The Panamanian document charges that the conspiracy entails "isolating the Defense Forces with respect to the principal national sectors, to weaken its prestige and autonomy, with the final objective of turning it into a coercive instrument at the service of" the protagonists of the conspiracy. Further, the conspirators seek "to align Panama within the continental economic reordering proposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, reorganizing the economic structures of the country for the benefit of the transnational corpora-

tions." The document concludes that the coup plot intends the "neutralization and collapse of the Contadora Group," through manipulation of Panama and "its military involvement" in Central America.

The loudest mouthpiece against Contadora (the alliance of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama for a regional solution in Central America) is Henry A. Kissinger. The ex-Secretary of State manipulates U.S. foreign policy in the Caribbean and South America on behalf of his Kissinger Associates' private clients in the world of international finance—the world of "dirty money" from drug-trafficking.

The document's information has apparently been taken seriously enough to warrant the convening of an emergency State Council meeting by Panama's President Delvalle. According to EFE, Panamanian authorities publicly charge that the conspiracy is being pushed by "certain U.S. State Department officials and some members of its embassy in Panama," probably including the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Everett Briggs.

The drumbeat for overthrow of the new Panamanian government and a return to IMF oversight has already begun to sound in the Eastern Establishment media. Immediately after Ardito Barletta resigned, the *New York Times* threatened editorially that "General Noriega should not underestimate this country's strategic interest in Panama's political future." Even more pointedly, the *Boston Globe*, voice of the U.S. financial "bluebloods," editorialized Oct. 5 that "Americans must back the forces of democracy . . . and bring maximum pressure on Noriega to end his sordid rule. This responsibility falls most heavily on the U.S. government. . . . The administration should suspend military aid. . . ."

Panamanians support Noriega

Panama is being hit with a wave of opposition demonstrations demanding the ouster of Defense Forces commander Gen. Manuel Noriega, the man who forced Ardito Barletta

to resign, for alleged complicity in the murder of terrorist Hugo Spadafora. Noriega had met with Peruvian President Alan García in early September to extend his support for García's anti-IMF initiatives, a statement of things to come in Panama.

Regarding the opposition protests, the Panamanian state council issued a declaration on Oct. 8 condemning certain groups which, "in open defiance of constitutional authorities, persist in the preparation and execution of a seditious plan to attack the government through the introduction of anarchy and violence." The Council pledged to take "all measures necessary" to preserve stability.

While the opposition, led by the professionals' association COCINA, gathered 20,000 on Oct. 9 to demand Noriega's head, the pro-government sectors of the population, including the CONATO labor organization, the PRD party and others, held a countermarch the next day in which 200,000 people rallied to express their approval of Ardito Barletta's abrupt departure from the presidency, and to dictate a new mandate for development and against the pro-drug austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund. One week earlier, the ruling PRD party had issued a document blaming Ardito Barletta's imposition of the Fund's despised austerity regimen for his overthrow.

Peru's García under the gun

Kissinger's heavy guns are still trained on Peruvian President Alan García, who continues to demonstrate how a developing sector nation can recover its national sovereignty and stand up to the Fund (see page 6).

Newsweek magazine, which speaks for the same Eastern Liberal Establishment as Kissinger does, conveyed no fewer than six death threats against the Peruvian President. In the Oct. 7 edition of *Newsweek's* Latin American edition, a feature story on García compares the Peruvian head of state to the assassinated former U.S. President, describing him as "the Kennedy of Latin America." The article goes on: "He is the hottest political star to emerge in Latin America since Perón—a comparison that some outsiders already find sobering."

Writes *Newsweek*, "In the end his activist course seems rash," and, citing an anonymous U.N. diplomat, "The history of Latin America is filled with the blood of those who tried to alter the system too energetically and too quickly." Yet another is cited, "the situation could boomerang against him." *Newsweek*, owned by *Washington Post* publisher and Liberal Establishment Katharine Graham, goes on: "The stakes in meeting these challenges are enormous, reaching far beyond García's personal safety." "Another fear is that left-wing rule will eventually spark a conservative backlash and, possibly, a military coup." Finally, notes *Newsweek*, "For García, the question is . . . whether he will fall victim to his own boldness."

Newsweek's comparison of Alan García to Argentina's Juan Perón—one of the continent's most slandered political figures—is not accidental. Peru's drug-legalization-promoting *Oiga* magazine has also attacked García for his similarity to the Argentine leader. Like Perón, García has taken on the responsibility of guaranteeing his nation's sovereignty and, in the process, has set an example for the entire Ibero-American continent. Also like Perón, he has defined a nationalist economic structure for his nation and has defied the International Monetary Fund.

García's meeting on Oct. 8 with Peronist leader Juan Gabriel Labaké suggests a basis to *Newsweek's* and *Oiga's* fears. After their lengthy meeting to discuss a project for continental economic and political integration, Labaké declared that "nobody since Perón has had such a courageous and lucid attitude as that of the Peruvian President."

Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) guerrillas have been rampaging across Peru in recent weeks in an escalation of their declared war on the García government. On Oct. 7 alone, the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Peruvian Communist Party (PCP), Shining Path hit several parts of Lima at once, including two foreign firms, several banks and colleges, a high-tension electricity tower on the main highway, and five headquarters of the ruling APRA party. The toll was at least five dead, and millions in damages.

On Oct. 4, Shining Path prisoners at the Lurigancho prison set off a bloody riot to try to prevent official attempts to conduct a search of their wing of the prison, in anticipation of a possible escape attempt to coincide with the Oct. 7 Communist Party anniversary. When the republican guard arrived to carry out the search, they were met with a hail of molotov cocktails, and attacked with daggers and bows and arrows. When the riot was finally subdued, 30 prisoners were discovered to have been seized and burned alive by the Shining Path rioters. A full-scale arsenal was discovered in the terrorists' "bunker," and the Shining Path prisoners had actually built a cement wall separating their cells from the rest of the prison, with no one—including prison authorities and government officials—permitted to enter.

Perhaps most significant is the announcement of the Maoist "United Left" organization, led by pro-terrorist Javier Diez Canseco, declaring war on the García government under the name of "human rights." A paid United Left ad in the daily *La República*, denounces the APRA government for running a "dirty war," and calls for a nationwide mobilization and "plan of action" against García. The statement calls the Lurigancho raid a government-authorized "slaughter," and declares "full solidarity with the political prisoners."

The joining of the Peruvian left with Shining Path's violence can best be dubbed "Fidel Castro's revenge," in view of President García's success in stripping the anti-debt mantle from Castro and reducing him in the eyes of the continent to the opportunist that he is.