

Socialist Int'l joins terrorist war against Peru

by Valerie Rush

A narco-terrorist uprising against the Peruvian government was crushed on June 18 when military and police units, on orders from President Alan García, seized control of three prisons that nearly 1,000 *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path) terrorists were using as their headquarters for the insurgency.

The aborted uprising was part of Soviet low-intensity-warfare operations—mafia-financed—against governments throughout the region. On June 17, the narco-terrorist M-19 in neighboring Colombia attempted to assassinate that country's interior minister.

Additional weapons for the insurgencies were kept out of narco-terrorist hands, however. On board a Danish boat was a 250-ton shipment of Soviet arms, enough to equip a 1,500-man battalion, but the boat was intercepted by Panamanian authorities. A 30-ton truck cargo, primarily submachine guns, was captured by Venezuelan National Guardsmen along the Colombia-Venezuela border.

Decisive action by García led to the successful suppression of the prison revolts, but the war against Peru has rapidly escalated. On June 20, a female terrorist penetrated security lines and blew herself up with a mortar trying to assassinate President García as he delivered the opening address to the Socialist International conference in Lima. One day after the prison affair, a car-bomb exploded in the central business district of San Isidro, Lima, damaging a two-block area.

On June 25, a suitcase-bomb exploded on a tourist train to the Inca ruins of Machu Pichu, killing several and wounding dozens. The train carried some delegates from the Socialist International conference. Also on June 25, the bodies of five civil engineers working on a government aid project in the rural province of Huanta were discovered with notes pinned to their bodies announcing that "10 Apristas (members of ruling APRA party) will die for each combatant killed,"

a reference to the Shining Path prisoners who died in the fighting.

International support for Shining Path

Behind this new escalation of *Senderista* terror, however, is a full-scale mobilization by the international liberal media and the Socialist International itself to bring down the García government for the alleged "massacre" of terrorist inmates during the 36-hour battle to retake the terrorist-occupied prisons. The campaign is identical to the one launched last November against García's Colombian colleague, President Belisario Betancur, who was forced to order troops to retake the Justice Palace housing the Colombian Supreme Court from 50 M-19 narco-terrorists occupying the building and systematically executing Supreme Court justices. Betancur was hit by a flood of denunciations for being a "fascist" and a "butcher," a destabilization campaign which has not ceased to this day.

García has now come in for his share of slanders. Exemplary is the *New York Times* editorial of June 21, which called the recapture of the prisons "premeditated massacre" and "an act of butchery that weakens the struggling new democracy" in Peru. Or the "open letter to García," written by Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and carried in the *Washington Post*, which accused García of "weakening civilized life" and of using the prison revolts to "settle accounts with his enemies."

The Socialist International had debated canceling its conference to protest García's handling of the affair, but SI president Willy Brandt and his colleagues chose instead to use its presence to try to entrap García, starting with the creation of a commission to investigate the military's actions in putting down the prison rebellions. The conference also

passed a resolution expressing its "serious concern" at the number of dead terrorists, and urged international human rights organizations to probe the García government's handling of the affair. Several delegates attempted their own personal investigation, but were denied admission to the prisons by police guards.

Brandt met privately with the Peruvian President to demand an explanation for the events and, according to European press reports, to win the release from Peruvian prison of a "West German citizen," presumed to be the Red Brigade terrorist and Shining Path member Renate Herr! Brandt was carrying with him a telex from the Soviet-run Green Party of West Germany, asking him to intercede with García for an investigation of the "outrageous massacre" of their terrorist associates.

García retaliates

President García has succeeded in cutting through this destabilization campaign—and pinpointing the connection of the international banking community. In a ceremonial address honoring Brandt, García ordered an investigation of the prison events. However, he was explicit that he would resort to arms as often as necessary to defend the Peruvian nation. Then, he stated that the terrorist attempts to "blackmail our democracy before the other nations of the Earth . . . coincide with the intentions of that economic power which subjugates the destiny of mankind," the International Monetary Fund. "The government of Peru will not step back in its position on the foreign debt . . . and will not surrender to the International Monetary Fund."

In a televised address to the nation the night of June 24, President García announced that he had ordered the jailing of Republican Guard troops and officers responsible for murdering 30 to 40 Shining Path prisoners who had surrendered. Said García, "It is going beyond the law to annihilate rebels [who] had surrendered, were unarmed and with hands in the air, on the same principle of authority with which we severely defend order." García declared that to remain silent would be "to open the doors to the law of the jungle in Peru." The Republican Guard is one of Peru's three police forces, and is responsible for guarding prisons, borders, and the President himself. García had been forced to fire dozens of its officers, including its supreme commander, for their service to drug traffickers and organized crime.

The President went on: "The force of law must be above brutal first reactions. Only thus does it have the right to use the full energy of the law. I support the action of the joint command in using arms with firmness. But . . . I denounce those who have committed assassination that exceeds all orders received. If I did not denounce this to the nation, I would not be equal to my historic responsibility. . . ."

García sharply distinguished between the incident with the Republican Guard and the military's overall handling of the prison riots: "The Joint Command of the Armed Forces has carried out the order of the government with loyalty and

we support their actions. . . . Those who believe that avoiding excesses detracts from the moral authority of the forces of order are tremendously mistaken, because the fight against terrorism is not over, it has only just begun, and to face it with increasing firmness and severity, we must make sure there are no errors, excesses, or barbarity.

"I reject the comfortable position of those who believe one must negotiate with those who have only spread death across Peru. I reject the easy condemnation of those who now say we used too much force and believe that terrorism can take possession of the prisons, blackmail society, and mock democracy without the state affirming its authority. . . . All the weapons of the law must be used energetically, but when someone has yielded and is unarmed, no matter how perverse and demented he be, human law and the law of Christ commands we respect [his life]."

García concluded: "It is our historic power to triumph over barbarism. This is our moral force to lead the country to justice, freedom, and security. Towards these goals, and for them, we need to unite against terrorism. In these dramatic and difficult moments, I call for national unity against subversion. . . ."

What is the Socialist International?

It is generally acknowledged that the Sendero prison uprising was intended to coincide with the 17th annual congress of the Socialist International. One Peruvian anthropologist with roots in Shining Path, Carlos Ivan de Gregori, told the press that the narco-terrorists "figured that with the international conference going on here, the government wasn't going to respond with such force." De Gregori added, "It was a grave error."

However, the Socialist International itself, with its multitude of political front groups, parties, newspapers, human-rights movements, and so on, has served as a financial conduit, propaganda forum, and international safe-house for narco-terrorist groups.

The German Socialist paper, *Vorwärts*, gives favorable coverage to Colombia's M-19. A close collaborator of M-19 is Jeremy Corbin of the British Labour Party, affiliate of the Socialist International. The M-19's Zurich representative, Anna Salcedo, works closely with the Swiss Socialist Party and told a caller that Lima could soon be hit by "the same kind of action" that hit Bogota, a reference to the Justice Palace siege.

Shining Path itself has found common cause with such disparate "liberation" movements as the Turkish Workers Party/Marxist-Leninist, the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, the Proletarian Party of Bangladesh, the Union of Iranian Communists, the Communist Collective of Agit/Prop of Italy, and the Sikh Progressive Writers and Artists of the Punjab. All of them are represented by a single office at 10 Rue de l'Échiquier, Paris, and their "common cause" is that they are up to their necks in the drug trade and receive sponsorship—directly or indirectly—from Moscow.