

Andean Report by Mark Sonnenblick

How to bring justice to justices

Peru's President García indicted the corrupt judge who sprang a top narcotics banker from jail.

Peruvian President Alan García delivered a body blow to Dope, Inc.'s efforts to overthrow him and take back control of Peru. Using the power granted the President under the state of emergency declared to fight terrorism, García on Oct. 7 ordered cocaine banker Carlos Langberg back to jail, reversing a release order issued by a corrupt judge Oct. 2. Then, in what should be a subtle message to President Reagan, García's government indicted the judge and the prison officials who participated in what the government termed "a mockery of justice."

As this column went to press, García was meeting with his cabinet to organize what Lima sources predicted would be a thorough moralization of the country's justice system, which has made it nearly impossible to convict the kingpins of the drug trade and the terrorism which threaten civilized society.

Langberg's release was the biggest threat to García's presidency since the June 16 set-up in which renegade policemen assassinated up to 100 terrorist prisoners in cold blood, violating government orders to restore order among the mutinous prisoners. Then, too, García acted with a potency and a sense of justice that astounded his foes, and, so far, has thwarted efforts to use the incident to discredit his government or provoke a military coup.

The terrorist-support networks are still using the incident to bludgeon García. For example, in an early-October Bonn press conference, Javier

Diez Canseco, an oligarch who is a leader of the pro-Shining Path left opposition to García in Congress, declared that Willy Brandt had promised him to study all "human rights abuses" by the García regime and to consider Diez Canseco's plea that the \$100 million in development loans West Germany has promised Peru next year be cut off.

"The possibilities of President Alan García finishing his term in 1990 are remote, despite his recurrent tactic of exploiting Peruvian national vanity," the *International Currency Review*, the mouthpiece for the gnomes of the City of London, predicted in its latest issue. Copies were slipped under the hotel room doors of the 3,000 delegates at the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting in Washington.

The London bankers, whose fortunes began with the opium trade, are in league with other parts of the Peruvian left. Qaddafi-loving journalist Augusto Zimmermann advocates abolishing President Reagan's "imperialist" War on Drugs. In his *Kausachum* magazine Zimmermann recalled that U.S. citizens pay \$50 billion per year for cocaine—"thus sniffing every 365 days three times Peru's total foreign debt." So, he suggests "the United States send the \$10 billion it spends every year fighting narcotics traffic to buy Peru and Bolivia's coca leaf crops." Those countries would use part of the money to pay off the bankers holding their foreign debt early, and the rest for "the country's eco-

nomie development. . . . We are a beggar country seated in a sea of coca."

Zimmermann reworks the historic slogan of García's party, "Only APRA will save Peru," to "Only coca will save Peru," to fit his demand that García abandon his war on drugs, which has seized more cocaine than any other in the world.

Cocaine financier Carlos Langberg feels at home with either slogan. His lawyer claimed Oct. 7 that Langberg was a loyal APRA member. Indeed, Jorge Idáquez, then secretary general of the APRA, was aboard Langberg's yacht in 1980 when it sailed into Acapulco with 500 kilos of cocaine on board. Langberg escaped Mexico with a conviction for only carrying 50 grams and paid the fine, but the Peruvian Supreme Court is now processing charges against him for drug trafficking, even of that small amount, from Peru.

In 1981, a young and unknown APRA deputy named Alan García risked his career and his life at a time no one was fighting drugs by going against the party mafia to force an investigation of Langberg, the party's top funder. That inquiry led to Langberg's conviction a year later of financing and directing narcotics traffic, for which he was sentenced to 14 years in jail.

Thus, Langberg's release was a personal challenge to García's authority as President. García's main opponent inside the party, Sen. Armando Villanueva, went so far as to declare that Langberg's release seemed to be legally valid. The communiqué, reportedly penned by García's hand, which ordered Langberg back to jail stated: "The government has ordered his detention in the expectation that judicial authorities will review the judge's decision, given that the country cannot be made the object of a mockery."