

Editorial

Soviet irregular warfare in the Andes

On the evening of June 11, Sara Madueño de Vásquez, *EIR*'s Lima bureau chief, and her husband, Luis Vásquez, secretary general of the Peruvian Labor Party (PLP), were assaulted as they were about to leave María del Carmen Cabanillas, *EIR*'s sales manager, at her home. Two young men approached the car, one putting a gun to Mrs. Vásquez's head. As the other ran toward the driver's side with his gun drawn, Vásquez floored the accelerator while the others hit the floor. The three escaped unharmed from the kidnapping or assassination attempt.

Dozens of Peruvians are subjected to the narco-terrorist gangs' revenge every week, aimed at terrorizing and murdering allies of President Alan García's war on drugs, and battle for economic sovereignty. Days before, Peruvian Deputy Finance Minister Gustavo Saberbein narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Shining Path. Armed with machine guns, six narco-terrorists attacked Saberbein at a restaurant in downtown Lima. Several security guards who fended off the attack died.

A Peruvian Labor Party spokesman blamed the attack on the Vásquezes on "narcotics traffickers working for Moscow." The PLP official declared, "Groups like Shining Path or Colombia's M-19 are allied with drug runners and are an irregular Soviet army, placed on a war footing to destroy the republics of Ibero-America."

The assault took place just as Soviet-inspired narco-terrorism has increased at a spectacular rate in Peru and the whole Andean region. Narco-terrorist groups like Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement carry out bombings and assassinations daily. Meanwhile the Moscow-directed Peruvian Communist Party has recently declared war against the Peruvian government—which they call "fascist" for its efforts against subversion.

Cocaine kingpin Carlos Lehder, now awaiting trial in the United States for drug-running, announced last year that he was forming a multinational narco-terrorist army of half a million men to "liberate" Ibero-America. Lehder, whose ideology is based on Soviet anthropologists' "indigenous people's power," is also an explicit

follower of Adolf Hitler.

The entire Andean region, from Colombia to Bolivia is the battleground for Soviet irregular warfare, and Lehder's half million army of Nazi-communist narco-terrorists is on the march.

Luis Vásquez, the PLP's general secretary, is well-known in Peru and other countries of the region for his unrelenting struggle against drug traffic. In recent months, Vásquez twice defeated former prime minister Manuel Ulloa in Peruvian courts. Ulloa had sued him for saying the economic policies he pursued while in government favored the flourishing of narcotics traffic. Mrs. Vásquez, is both *EIR* bureau chief and president of the Peruvian chapter of the Schiller Institute, which has rallied international support for President García's policies.

While Moscow is banking on a coup or assassination of García, the State Department remains hostile to him because he has challenged the International Monetary Fund, and imposed a policy of growth-before-debt that has set an example for the continent. Much of official Washington does not understand that the defeat of García would be a hideous blow to U.S. strategic interests and a victory for Soviet irregular warfare.

President García began his assault on the narcotics mob the day after his inauguration two years ago by attacking the jungle airstrips of the cocaine mafia. His war against narco-terrorism has been slowed by Washington's skimpy aid for the anti-drug war. This month the Peruvian government requested \$500 million for the war on drugs from the Western industrialized countries whose populations are the victims of the drug plague. These nations have been slow to understand what *EIR* documented in its best seller, *Dope Inc., Boston Bankers and Soviet Commissars*: The Soviets have been running the international drug trade for over 20 years to "bury" Western civilization, and with considerable success.

Peru's \$500 million request is the minimal amount necessary to sustain a serious fight against an international enemy with more resources than many Ibero-American nations combined.