

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

The end of the truce

Soviet narco-terrorism seeks to spread Central American chaos southward, starting with a vulnerable Colombia.

To all except the politically ingenious, it has become obvious that the Colombian government's truce with the Moscow-run FARC guerrillas is dead. President Barco's peace adviser, Carlos Ossa Escobar, the man charged with keeping the truce going these many months, told *Semana* magazine Aug. 18, "Unfortunately, recent events are proving that the FARC doesn't want the cease-fire. . . . The FARC today is taking a clearly offensive stance. . . . They are going to have to bear responsibility before the country."

It is no coincidence that the collapse of the truce comes at the same time that the FARC, along with its narco-terrorist brethren in the M-19, ELN, etc., has announced plans to forge a unified "Bolivarian national movement," with the intention of seizing power and then spreading across the continent.

Whether the narco-terrorists, already many thousands strong and better equipped than the Colombian armed forces, can pull off such a plan is less immediately relevant than the impact on Colombia—and therefore on the entire crucial "Andean spine"—of drug-financed terrorism. As M-19 leader Navarro Wolf has publicly stated, this region "will be the new lungs of the Latin American revolution. Through here the solution to the stalemate of the revolution in Central America will be found."

The same issue of *Semana* magazine revealed the existence of a document prepared at a recent meeting between guerrilla leaders Jacobo Arenas

and Alfonso Cano of the FARC, and two M-19ers representing the umbrella National Guerrilla Coordinator (CNG). The CNG is made up of the narco-terrorist gangs ELN, EPL, Patria Libre, PRT, and Quintín Lamé. According to the document, the new movement has set out to forge so-called "Bolivarian nuclei," for the purpose of infiltrating key sectors of Colombian political, economic, and cultural life. The warfare would also extend beyond national borders, "to establish the basis for the future United States of Latin America, the dream of the Liberator" Bolívar.

Ossa Escobar described the scenario as "more like the delirious proposals of the M-19 than the prudent pronouncements that have always characterized the FARC," but admitted that FARC leader Cano had recently bragged to a reporter, "Power is just around the corner."

The "prudence" of the FARC was also less than evident in an interview given by the renowned FARC chieftain, "Commander Sureshot" (*Tirofijo*) to French television in April 1985, where he elaborated a two-stage approach to the seizure of power. The first phase would be the capture, with some 40,000 men, of part of Colombian national territory, to form a "provisional government." The second phase would be the forging of a 100,000-man army which, "with the support of the people," would go for the "definitive overthrow of the system."

With increased flows of cocaine pouring out of Colombia and into the

United States, the narco-terrorists are better financed than ever, and the violence is consequently escalating. Political assassinations on the local, regional, and national levels are now a daily occurrence. On Aug. 20, the Colombian press reported front-page on a series of terrorist attacks against the nation's infrastructure: electricity towers, petroleum installations, etc.

In a mid-August forum on "Reviving the Social Ethic" in Colombia, a leader of Colombia's small industrialists' association (ACOPÍ) defined the opposition to the state as "incarnate today in the drug trade and subversion which, joined with the cadre of Soviet expansionism, are three distinct persons and one single enemy." At that same meeting, *El Espectador* director José Salgar furiously denounced complicity with the enemy at the highest levels of government, and insisted that only a war on drugs could restore the morality of the family, and the nation. Salgar is the son-in-law of Don Guillermo Cano, the director of *El Espectador*, murdered by the mafia last December for his anti-drug views.

In its Aug. 21 editorial, the daily denounced those who would advise a strategy of passive defense, with the Colombian armed forces forced to await the next ambush "as if the development of the armed movements were not a constant mobilization."

In the same edition, columnist Ramiro de la Espriella spelled out what is on everyone's mind. Asserting that Colombia is "surrounded" on all its borders, de la Espriella writes, "We cannot continue to lie to ourselves and deny that Colombia is at war. Every armed confrontation requires a war mentality. . . . What the country needs now, undoubtedly and before it is too late, is a real war cabinet, in which all parties and serious ideological groupings participate."