

Drugs and voodoo: the Gnostic International

by Valerie Rush

When Colombian troops raided a fortified underground bunker belonging to the Medellín Cartel of cocaine traffickers Feb. 17, some of the soldiers drew back in horror and refused to enter the place. In the doorway were tiles engraved with cabbalistic symbols. According to a description of the room appearing in the daily *El Tiempo*, "soldiers found vials of incense, and a wall recently stained with blood; it was not clear whether human, or from a sacrificed animal. There were also formulas on how to kill animals in proper ritualistic fashion. . . . In the entrance of the main room was a pencil sketch of Jesus Christ with a bullet-hole through the head. The property owners had written underneath, 'a real son of a whore.' There was a cauldron of smoke-blackened crucifixes, pigs' feet, bloody sticks. . . . Above the cauldron hung a grappling hook and a pulley. Next to it an embalmed cobra."

El Tiempo editorialized Feb. 19 that the room "held a medieval ambience . . . [like] a Dracula movie, or the pipes of an alchemist in which cocaine is transformed into gold. It is now known that our traffickers are practicing demonologists and the unique altar discovered at Torre Alta is full proof of this. . . . The processing and trade of the white powder [cocaine] is not only to be protected by bullets, but by the occult powers from which [the drug traffickers] seek protection, erecting underground altars in which they surely celebrated black masses."

The Gnostics and terrorism

The news that Colombia's drug traffickers are full-blown Gnostics and practitioners of black magic, may have shocked the Colombian public, but comes as no surprise to *EIR* readers. As early as 1984, this publication issued a Special Report entitled, "Narco-terrorism in Ibero-America," which described the Gnostic practices of the drug mafia and its terrorist collaborators on both the "left" and the "right."

In fact, it was the Gnostic Church which established, and still runs, the narco-terrorist M-19. One of the M-19's founders, Jaime Bateman, told an interviewer in 1983 that "Gnosis" protected him: "Mystic or not, brother, I'm persuaded that it works. . . . The [Gnostics'] executive committee, or whatever it's called, sends us congratulations all the time. . . . Science stultifies the world, and stultifies thinking. . . . The

traditional left refuses to acknowledge the importance of cults, magical thought, religious manifestations."

The M-19's current leader, Antonio Navarro Wolfe, cites Bateman as his teacher, and describes his organization's strategy: "Very rapid social dynamics are needed in countries with . . . a youth without hope which expects nothing from the future. . . . To what do you call all these people? To something half-magic, audacious, novel, vital."

This mysticism is by no means limited to the foot-soldiers of narco-terrorism. On June 19, 1987, *EIR* broke the story on the Cuban connection to the Gnostic International, shortly after Panamanian "mystic" Col. Roberto Díaz Herrera attempted a coup against his commander-in-chief, Gen. Manuel Noriega.

Díaz Herrera was involved in trafficking drugs through his role as the "Panama connection" for Peruvian "godfather" Reynaldo Rodríguez López, of Villa Coca fame. His drug links, along with his family ties to Castro's Cuba, while well known, were protected by U.S. banking and intelligence interests who found him a useful asset inside the Panama Defense Forces. On June 6, 1987, Díaz Herrera announced his readiness to offer "proof" of Noriega's corruption. Instead, he presented a disassociated monologue on his mystical beliefs, which were censored from the U.S. press for fear they would discredit his "evidence" against General Noriega.

Not only did Díaz Herrera state that he was acting against Noriega on behalf of an occult power, but that he was supported by his friend Fidel Castro: "Fidel is a mystic, didn't you know? I have spoken twice with Comandante Castro, and we spoke in this way, that he is a mystic. Do you know why? . . . I don't know what the dictionary says 'mystic' means, but he is a spiritual man, despite his being a Marxist-Leninist, and he is a profoundly human man, to the core. He is a great friend not only of Panama, but an extraordinary friend to me."

Díaz Herrera, also named Socialist International Vice President José Francisco Peña Gómez, of the Dominican Republic, as a leader of this Gnostic network. Said Díaz Herrera, Peña Gómez can corroborate my charges, because he too knows the occult. "He told me that he has spoken twice with the spirit of [the late President Omar] Torrijos, [which] is restless because he was assassinated."

Peña Gómez, a member of the pro-drug-legalization Inter-American Dialogue, remains an occultist. According to the Dominican daily *El Nacional* of Feb. 15, Peña Gómez said that his Revolutionary Democracy Party had increased its chances of an electoral victory because the "warlocks" had thrown it their support. Several days later, the head of the ruling FNP party, Amaury Fernández, commented, "What Peña Gómez is doing is manifesting great contempt for the faith of the Christian majorities. His behavior is a shameless ridicule of the efforts of so many to get those most backward sectors of the population uplifted from the superstitions that keep them oppressed."