

The Brazilian military is repeatedly singled out, because they insist on this "traditional view."

In Brazil, the armed forces remain vocal on a wide range of issues, including many that are decidedly non-military. The country's intelligence services and its National Security Council are controlled by the armed forces. . . .

In a number of countries, the armed forces still maintain a strong voice on non-military policies. In Brazil, six of the 26 members of the cabinet are active-duty generals or admirals.

The Dialogue makes clear its networks are working upon the Constituent Assembly to ensure the military role does not continue. They object, "Thus far, the Constitutional Assembly has not agreed to proposals which limit the traditionally broad mandate of the military to maintain internal order."

With Brazil, the militaries of Peru and Central America are singled out as problem cases because those nation's militaries continue to believe they have a "guardianship role" over national interests. One of the more remarkable features of the Dialogue's report, is its complaint that while military rule has been a negative experience in most nations:

In Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru . . . public attitudes toward the military are not uniformly unfavorable, and the armed forces themselves are generally proud of their accomplishments!

One might surmise, therefore, that the Dialogue is up to its ears in orchestrating the current campaign to create a "uniformly unfavorable" environment against the military in Ibero-America, so that military views no longer "count heavily" in policymaking. Indeed, the Dialogue demands additional effort to ward off the possibility of civilian-military alliances developing:

The possible growth of civilian support for a resumption of military rule cannot be ignored, particularly in countries where prolonged economic deprivation is undermining the credibility of democratic governments.

So, the Dialogue tells us, "a concerted effort to redefine the relationship of those governments to the armed forces," must begin. International opposition must be mobilized to stop this so-called "military intervention," and the content of military and civilian training programs changed, to limit "the mission of the armed forces and the scope of its mandate."

Fanatically they insist that they will not have succeeded in their project "until military officers think of democracy in terms of procedures to be safeguarded at almost any cost," including the cost of their nations, and human life itself.

PLV case endangers Venezuelan democracy

by Carlos Méndez

A major scandal broke out in Venezuela after the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), with apparent "encouragement" from U.S. Ambassador Otto Reich, rejected registration for the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV), which bases its economic program on "American System" economist Lyndon H. LaRouche's strategy for Ibero-America integration (for example, LaRouche's 1982 *Operation Juárez*). The CSE falsely charged that most signatures submitted by the PLV were forged. The same elections board granted legal party status to the Venezuelan Spiritual Guiding Force party, whose presidential candidate, Romulo Abreu Duarte, calls himself "the witch's candidate," and says people "should make their minds blank so that spiritual waves can enter."

Venezuelan democrats from many parties were disturbed by what they perceived to be a CSE threat to the pride of the Venezuelan political system—democracy. The daily *Ultimas Noticias*, for example, ran the headline, "Grave Irregularities by CSE Endanger Democratic System," on a PLV release giving the facts of the case. They fear the election board will undermine the party registration process, one of the few strongpoints of a political system demoralized by corruption scandals and failure to deal with the economic crisis.

In 1986, the PLV was officially registered as a political party in Caracas city and four states. Last year, the PLV fulfilled the constitutional requirements for national party registration; it submitted thousands of supporters' signatures to the CSE, collected during highly visible campaigns on the streets of seven other states. But the CSE refused to register the party on the grounds that one handwriting expert—the law requires two—claimed over 70% of the signatures of duly registered voters to be false.

The PLV appealed the CSE bureaucracy's decision to the Supreme Court of Justice. On May 6, three of Venezuela's most prestigious handwriting experts, one hired by the supreme court, one by the attorney general, and one by the PLV, gave the Supreme Court their unanimous opinion that the only fraud was by the CSE. The three experts determined, "The average time needed to verify the authenticity of a signature by the method and tools used by the CSE is between one hour thirty minutes and two hours; . . . When dealing with a large lot of signatures, the average time per signature could be reduced to about 30 minutes."

Therefore, the court's experts concluded, it would take the CSE's handwriting expert at least a year and eight months to examine the number of signatures which he pronounced to be false just a few weeks after the CSE had received them. He would have had to spend less than 3 minutes apiece on signatures he rejected from some states. The experts also observed that he had provided not the slightest explanation for why he had declared thousands of signatures to be false.

"Unless the CSE amends this extremely grave irregularity and immediately registers the PLV on the national level," PLV secretary general Alejandro Peña Esclusa, warned, according to the May 10 *Ultimas Noticias*, "the country's nationalist institutions and the citizenry in general will think the Constitution has been intolerably trampled." "Who would accept the election results as valid if a fraud of this magnitude is committed against a small political party?" Peña asked. The daily also published the PLV statement, "To strengthen the democratic system, the Supreme Court of Justice should hurry its decision in our favor; in any case, even before that happens [elections board chairman] Dr. Carlos Delgado Chappellín should legalize the PLV or resign as a signal of protest. Those are the only honest choices he has."

The next day, *Ultimas Noticias* published the reaction of the man at the CSE in charge of political party legalization, Luis Carlos Calatrava. He still claimed the signatures presented by the PLV were false and that "this was scientifically proven by a handwriting expert." However, the official had to admit that Venezuela lives under the rule of law and that "it will be the court who decides who is right, the PLV or the CSE."

Interview: Alejandro Peña

Alejandro Peña, secretary general of the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV) gave EIR the following exclusive interview May 12.

EIR: Why do you claim there is a plot against democracy and against the PLV?

Peña: Everything began when the PLV began a massive campaign to fight narco-terrorism and dirty money laundering. In response to the publication of the book, *Dope, Inc.*, considered in Ibero-America to be the best war manual against narcotics traffic, Rockefeller-linked forces organized a raid on PLV headquarters in February 1985. The raid was run by a chief of my country's political police, the DISIP, who is now in jail for drug trafficking.

The PLV understood that it had gone to the heart of the country's drug finances. So, we publicly warned that these

forces would retaliate. They used their influence to shut up the only force which stood in the way of their definitive seizure of power. Exactly what we warned happened.

PLV legalization on a national level, necessary for running a presidential candidacy, was sabotaged by means of absurd handwriting examinations. Reliable sources assured us that, among others, U.S. Ambassador Otto Reich personally participated in this sabotage. He is linked to the Iran-Contra scandal and has worked for Rockefeller for decades.

EIR: How has the PLV responded?

Peña: Immediately after the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] decision, the Labor Party appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice to invalidate that act. The court decided to contract three handwriting experts—among them the president of the Latin American Association of Graphotechnicians—to review the methodology used by the CSE. They found irregularities typical of a totalitarian regime like Nicaragua's.

We have asked the CSE to immediately legalize the PLV, even before the Supreme Court rules in our favor, so that we can participate in December's presidential elections. In the meantime, we are continuing the case, not only in national courts, but in international courts. And we will not rest until justice has been done and we jail the guilty.

EIR: What would happen if the court's decision were delayed until after the elections?

Peña: Then, Venezuela and the whole world would see that the CSE is a fraudulent agency. Nobody would believe the election results. The consequences could be really grave. It is very dangerous for the Constitution and the human rights of thousands of Venezuelans to be trampled at the caprice of the "untouchables" who run drug finance. We would soon have a drug-runner government in Venezuela. . . .

EIR: Could you sum up the PLV's program?

Peña: What Venezuela needs is a nationalist movement, an alliance between the basic institutions, like the armed forces and the Church and the people. It needs a force capable of opposing neo-colonialism, such as Torrijos built in Panama. That is what we are building. We will make reality what Pope John Paul II proposes in his latest encyclical, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*.

Of course, that requires reorganizing the international financial system along the lines of Lyndon H. LaRouche's famous study, *Operation Juárez*. In fact, we cite it in the PLV's own bylaws. Based on that, we propose building a number of great projects that would generate two million jobs in two years. Don't forget that Venezuela has 16 million people (half of whom are children) and 2 million unemployed. But, on the other hand, we have an immense potential, loads of mineral and energy resources, and a large professional middle class capable of turning those resources into usable wealth.