

Andean Report by Carlos Méndez

Soviets back Shining Path

U.S.S.R. praises narco-terrorists' "local roots" while Soviet agents of influence inside Peru defend their butchery.

The Soviet Union is opposed to exporting revolution to Central America, or to any other place, because "one cannot impose happiness on other people; that is their own affair," declared Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov in early April. He added that if a political movement does not have "local roots," then it is not a legitimate revolution. In other words, the Soviet Union does legitimize movements which seek to impose "happiness," as long as those movements have "local roots."

Although Gerasimov's message encompasses a wide variety of so-called home-grown narco-terrorist groups, the direct recipient of this Soviet "nod" is the Pol Pot-styled narco-terrorist army in Peru known as Shining Path. Shining Path's apologists are forever proclaiming the group's "local roots," despite the fact that the group's creators are widely known to be French anthropologists.

As if confirming Gerasimov's statements, Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Leonid Kuzmin told the press March 23 that "the guerrilla movements in Latin America are the result of systems which do not provide adequate living conditions for the population," and that "it is very significant that Shining Path has its bases in the poorest regions of Peru."

These Soviet commentaries are part of a New Yalta deal that the Anglo-American Establishment has set up with the U.S.S.R., to include the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe and their redeployment to Ibero-America. On March 15, U.S. Defense

Secretary Richard Cheney said that "in the coming years . . . our military needs will be increasingly influenced by the need to see ourselves involved in low-intensity conflicts in the Third World." Creating those conflicts is the task of Moscow's narco-terrorist irregular warfare armies.

Not accidentally, the Soviets' declarations occur at a moment when Shining Path is in a full-scale offensive to "impose happiness." This offensive is occurring while Interior Minister Armando Villanueva—responsible for the fight against subversion—is doing absolutely nothing to contain it.

This situation is perhaps best illustrated by the March 27 assault, by 300 Shining Path narco-terrorists, on the national police garrison in Uchiza.

According to various policemen who were involved in the siege, not only did their ammunition run out, but the help promised by the notoriously pro-Soviet Minister Villanueva never arrived. In its early April edition, the magazine *Sí* published the transcript of a tape recording of several dialogues between the interior minister and the defenders of Uchiza, who were repeatedly requesting assistance. What follows are fragments of that transcription:

"5:30 p.m. First communication. . . . Major Carlos Farfán Correa, chief of the Uchiza police post, speaking: 'We are surrounded, Mr. Minister. Some 300 narco-terrorists are attacking us. . . . I need immediate help. The ammunition is running out. . . .' Villanueva: 'Calm down,

Major. I am coordinating with the defense minister. . . . We, Peru, democracy is with you. You must stay calm. Continue to defend yourself. . . . Don't worry, Major . . . help will arrive. . . . Tell your boys that I am personally arranging for reinforcements to arrive.'

"7:20 p.m. Major Farfán: 'Minister, please . . . we need help. They are killing my people.' Villanueva: 'Calm down, calm down, Major. . . . The arrangements have been made. Help is going to arrive. You are trained to resist. The country has trained you to defend yourselves.' Major Farfán: 'We are not going to surrender. We will resist.' Villanueva: 'The country needs people like you, Major.' Major Farfán: 'But Minister, we have been in combat since 5 o'clock. We cannot manufacture ammunition. . . . The narco-terrorists are better armed than we. . . . They are killing my people.'

"7:45 p.m. Villanueva: 'Major, help is on the way. . . . You have the mission to defend democracy. . . . (Capt. Walter Moscoso interrupts him, shouting: 'Shut up! You ask us to be calm because you're not here! I want to see *you* here, along with those government imbeciles who say defend the Fatherland. . . .') Major Farfán: 'Mr. Minister, we don't know in truth if help will arrive, because they have not even communicated with us. . . .'

"8:15 p.m. A voice claiming to be from nearby Tingo María: 'Three helicopters have already left. . . .'

But the helicopters never arrived. "Without bullets, there was no other choice but to surrender," one of the surviving policemen told the daily *La República* of March 31. He added, "The Shining Path group . . . told us 'send out the [police] officials,' supposedly to make a deal with them, but then they assassinated three of them in the main plaza."