

Pérez basks as U.S.-Moscow darling

by Ana M. Papert

During his visit to Washington, D.C. in the last week of April, Venezuela's social democratic President Carlos Andrés Pérez firmly established himself as "deal-maker" in Ibero-America on behalf of the Trilateral Commission and their drive for an Anglo-Soviet world condominium.

With an agenda ranging from the Venezuelan debt to drugs and the "pacification" of Central America and Colombia, Pérez met everyone from President Bush and members of both houses of Congress, to the National Security Council, the heads of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and Henry Kissinger. In every area under discussion, Pérez insisted that the Bush-Gorbachov accords must be extended to the Western Hemisphere through a supranational hemispheric framework.

Pérez went out of his way to publicly demonstrate his support for both powers of the condominium. In a final press conference on April 27 before leaving Washington, Pérez declared that when it comes to U.S.-Latin American relations, "It is clear that President Bush has the desire, the purpose, and the will to guide relations between his great nation and our own nations without any intention of subordination." Such gushing praise was especially welcome in Washington just four months after the U.S. military occupation of Panama.

No Venezuelan oil for Lithuania

Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachov has also turned to Pérez for similar public relations services, this time to help "explain" the Soviets' 50-year military occupation of Lithuania. According to Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, Pérez had informed Bush during their meeting of a personal note from Gorbachov, asking that Pérez "comprehend the situation in which he [Gorbachov] finds himself, and to help the other leaders of Latin America to understand also."

Indeed, in his press conference, Pérez called the Soviet dictator "a great leader," and expressed his "admiration" for the "efforts which [Gorbachov] is making." As for Lithuania's Declaration of Independence, Pérez declared that while "we hope with all our heart that an understanding is reached between Lithuania and the Soviet Union," Venezuela has no

plans to send oil to Lithuania to break the Soviet blockade. If Lithuania needs Venezuelan oil, it can buy it, he stated.

Pérez told reporters that in his view, the future of such countries as Cuba, Nicaragua, and Colombia does not depend on Ibero-American diplomatic efforts such as those of the Rio Group, but rather upon the superpower condominium. "If the two great powers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, have succeeded in easing tensions in Europe with the accords which Presidents Bush and Gorbachov have set in motion . . . [if] détente is a reality in the world, then there is no justification for the East-West confrontation to continue exclusively in the American Hemisphere," he said.

Pérez's speech the Organization of American States (OAS) on April 27 was a carbon copy of the report on Ibero-America recently released by the Trilateral Commission. Although he told the press that he had not read the Trilateral report, he assured them that the report's lead author, former U.S. ambassador to Venezuela George Landau, who today presides over Rockefeller's Americas Society, is "my friend." That report urges the creation of a "new security system" for the Caribbean and Latin America, eliminating national military institutions, and "suggests" creating "some form of multinational police force. Pérez explained in his press conference that Latin America should establish "its own security system."

In his address to the OAS, he proposed that it become a supranational government. The OAS "is wrapped in the thick crust of traditionalism, out of place in this dynamic and changing world—with renewed concepts of relations among states—in which we live." Pérez pointed out that these "renewed concepts" are based on "existing supranational obligations and rights," and that with the presumed end of the Cold War, "collective security could lead to a strengthening of the inter-American system" through the "peaceful solutions" offered by the OAS.

Pérez's concept of a "peaceful solution," however, is intended to keep the narco-terrorist apparatus in Latin America intact. In his press conference, the Venezuelan President expressed "pain" and "indignation" over the assassination of the founder of Colombia's M-19 movement Carlos Pizarro, and reported on his meeting with Pizarro in Caracas one week before the narco-terrorist's death. In an interview with the Venezuelan daily *El Universal* April 21, Pizarro "came out in favor of legalizing the consumption and sale of drugs," and said that "all of this must be done without false moral prejudices." Yet Pérez emphasized to the press that Pizarro was a man "who had joined the fight for peace and democracy in his country."

These criminal alliances were also reflected in Pérez's intercession in favor of the permanence of Sandinista Humberto Ortega as Nicaragua's defense minister. The *New York Times* reported April 30 on rumors that it was Pérez who had convinced Nicaragua's newly elected President Violeta Chamorro to keep Ortega in her government.