

IMF seeks to jail García, rub Peru off map

by Gretchen Small and Luis Vásquez

The one head of state who dared challenge the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) global dictatorship head-on in the 1980s, Peru's former President Alan García, now faces trial on trumped-up corruption charges fabricated at the highest levels of Anglo-American finance. On Oct. 19, the Peruvian Senate voted 38-17 to lift the parliamentary immunity attending the former President's status as senator-for-life, thereby clearing the way for García to be brought to trial.

On Oct. 16, García told the media that the witchhunt against him has its origin "in my having nationalized the banks, in not paying the foreign debt, in not submitting to the International Monetary Fund. This is what Peru's powerful want me to pay for." In a nearly three-hour, nationally televised address before the Peruvian Senate two days later, García denounced his victimization at the hands of vengeful international creditor banks seeking to make an example of him for his defiance of their usury in 1985. He declared that he had not come to defend himself to the Senate, but rather "out of consideration and a fundamental respect for the millions of Peruvians" who voted for him in 1985:

"For the first time in the history of the Republic, a head of state has been brought to trial. . . . The average Peruvian . . . knows that behind the rancor and this systematic obsession there is something other than a search for the truth. . . .

"It is an open secret that this personalized and hateful persecution began on Sept. 12, 1987. . . . Forty-four days earlier, on July 28, 1987, we had democratically proposed to the Congress, for its discussion, a draft law nationalizing the banks. . . .

"That's where the witchhunt began, the systematic persecution . . . for having offended great interests . . . for having

told the international banks that we have no reason to pay their appetites, without first satisfying the right to life of our people. . . . They want to punish me, not for what I did or what I was, but for what we might do in the future. . . . What we have here is fear and only that."

García also told the Senate that his was the only case in which the U.S. Treasury Department had ever offered to lift its banking secrecy regulations, with the result that a perfectly legal 1983 Florida account in his wife's name—for the grand sum of \$10,000—was "exposed."

Why the banks hate Alan García

The IMF has never forgiven García for the first two decisions he made on becoming President on July 28, 1985: 1) to limit payments on Peru's foreign debt to 10% of its export earnings, and use the rest to feed Peruvians; 2) to send the police and Army against narcotics laboratories in Peru's jungles, which no one had dared to touch for years. When the IMF demanded García meet all of Peru's debt payments no matter the cost in human lives, he shut down its Lima office.

For two years, García held out against the IMF and the banks, despite intense isolation on the Ibero-American continent and elsewhere, and ferocious economic warfare run by Peru's creditor banks. The result? García gave Peru its first real economic growth in decades.

His fatal mistake came in 1987 when, losing all hope of spurring other Ibero-American governments to join his fight, García opted to make amends with his enemies and to reopen the Peruvian economy to narco-dollars. With the return of IMF-style policies, Peru's economy plummeted in the final years of García's term, and with it, the support his fighting

days had won him.

García's other fatal mistake was his refusal to break with the Socialist International circles exemplified by Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez, which consistently repaid him for his allegiance, with betrayal. Ironically, García's decision to join George Bush's campaign of slander, threats, and ultimatums against Panama and its defense chief Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, up until the U.S. invasion, has come back to haunt him. Now García is receiving the "Noriega treatment."

The 'Noriega treatment'

Several months ago, the Peruvian Congress began debating whether there was sufficient evidence that García had illegally enriched himself as a congressman in 1980 and as President from 1985 to 1989, to lift his immunity. What little "evidence" was dug up by tainted and unscrupulous sources was soon discredited. As García declared in his address to the Senate, it was not until the "diabolical assistance" of the office of New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, that the alleged "evidence" was provided and the García case resuscitated.

Morgenthau, whose first campaign for district attorney was paid for by dirty Ibero-American banks linked to dope king Meyer Lansky, has used his post for 17 years to serve as a coverup artist for the Wall Street interests of Dope, Inc. In this hit, Morgenthau began "leaking" allegations to García's enemies in Peru that García took monies from the infamous Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and profited from certain arms sales.

After months of "hearings," Peru's Chamber of Deputies came up with the absurd charge that García had failed to report \$4,000 on his 1980 income tax! The Senate determined that Morgenthau's allegations had to have their day in court.

The IMF and narco-terrorism

The painful irony of the "get García" campaign is that while the Peruvian Senate is enmired in specious charges of presidential corruption orchestrated by foreign financial and political interests, the country is being literally destroyed by the very IMF austerity measures against which García attempted to mobilize the continent, and by the marauding armies of narco-terrorists which are nurtured by those measures.

It is no accident that the financial interests behind the witchhunt of Alan García are the very ones that have stated—in the words of Citibank chairman John Reed—that Peru will soon "disappear from the map." The IMF program imposed by current President Alberto Fujimori last year, has thrown 5 million more Peruvians into conditions of "extreme poverty," bringing to 12 million the number of those suffering such misery.

Under such conditions, the murderous rampages of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) and Shin-

ing Path terrorists have dramatically escalated. "More than 20,000 people have died and more than 5 million have been affected by the loss of a father, mother, or child" at the hands of terrorists who also run drugs, wrote Juan Luis Cipriani, a Catholic bishop in Lima, Oct. 18 in the daily *El Comercio*. "Twenty-five percent of the country has been mistreated by merciless and murderous terrorism." The bishop summarized what Peru faces: "This is the worst genocide in our history; the worst of our internal wars; the worst trampling on human rights in Latin America in this century."

Yet, the Fujimori government is currently considering mechanisms for "dialogue" with these butchers, with an eye to offering them a political amnesty in exchange for a supposed "end to the violence." The Peruvian government has learned nothing from Colombia, where the government of President César Gaviria's embrace of the M-19 guerrillas has not led to peace, but rather to the growing power of the narco-terrorists and an escalation in violence, and Peru is moving quickly down the same suicidal path.

In its lead editorial Oct. 15, the Lima daily *Expreso*, owned by Manuel Ulloa, suggested that "the lesser ideological rigidity of the MRTA opens up the possibility of doing the same which . . . was carried out by the M-19 in Colombia." The daily welcomed the formation of the "Patria Libre Movement" as a legal arm of the terrorist MRTA, suggesting, "It could end up serving as the vehicle for [the group's] entrance into legality."

Ulloa, who is for drug legalization, is apparently trying out for the role of a Peruvian Alfonso López Michelsen, the former Colombian President turned political "godfather" to the drug cartels. López is the so-called "Notable" who has shepherded the narco-terrorists' dialogue with the Colombian government every step of the way.

In Peru, the narco-terrorists have directly targeted the Catholic Church. The MRTA's "Patria Libre Movement" established itself in early October with a call to the Church to become "the great interlocutor" of a similar dialogue in Peru. The idea of creating a peace council to facilitate that dialogue was embraced by the theology of liberation faction in the Peruvian Church, represented by the president of the Peruvian Bishops Assembly Msgr. José Dammert, but has been condemned by other bishops as "nothing but a talk fest." As Monsignor Cipriani emphasized, there can be no dialogue with this "band of assassins who destroy the freedom of the poorest."

Targeting the Armed Forces

As in Colombia and El Salvador, the so-called peace process in Peru would advance two great causes of the Anglo-American financial oligarchy: the legalization of the drug trade and the destruction of the Armed Forces. On Oct. 14, Fujimori traveled to the coca zone of Uchiza to announce to the press, with U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton at his side, that he and George Bush agreed in their recent talks