

OAS takes up human rights for terrorists

by Valerie Rush

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS), the same body which last August refused to consider a complaint of human and civil rights violations against political prisoner and U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, visited Peru in late October to meet with convicted drug traffickers and narco-terrorists and to solicit human rights complaints against that country's Armed Forces.

The OAS commission delegation in Peru includes Executive Secretary Edith Marquez, President Patrick Robinson, U.S. representative Michael Riesman, Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, and a representative from Venezuela. Each is in possession of extensive documentation of how LaRouche was illegally railroaded into jail for crossing the Anglo-American elites who are behind the international drug trade. They nonetheless dismissed the LaRouche complaint on a technicality within days of its receipt. This same commission devoted its efforts in Peru to visiting the jail cells of Peru's most prominent drug kingpins, as well as of several leaders of Shining Path and Tupac Amaru, two of Peru's most bloodthirsty terrorist organizations. The commission reached the conclusion that the worst human rights violator *in the world* is Peru's Armed Forces!

The purpose of this OAS intervention is no secret. The delegation went there on behalf of Anglo-American policy to wipe Peru off the map, or, as Citibank's John Reed put it over a year ago, to make Peru "disappear." With the criminal complicity of the Fujimori government, Peru is being ripped apart by the International Monetary Fund's austerity dictates and resultant starvation and epidemics on the one hand, and by unprecedented levels of narco-terrorist violence on the other. The only institution which might defend Peru in these desperate times, the Armed Forces, is being deliberately targeted for elimination under the pretext of redressing "human rights abuses."

Indeed, as a result of intense pressure from the international human rights lobby, on Oct. 30 the Peruvian Armed Forces Command ceded to the human rights commissions of both the U.N. and OAS the right to investigate all human rights accusations *inside the country* against individual military officers. Immediately, the OAS commission issued a formal recommendation that Peruvian Gen. José Valdivia, chief of Peru's Second Military Region, be tried before the

OAS's International Court of Justice for human rights abuses allegedly committed when he was the commander of the Ayacucho military zone.

Peruvian legislators speak out

During an Oct. 30 meeting at the Hotel Prado in Lima, a staff lawyer of the OAS commission was handed a letter by Peruvian Rep. Carlos Calderón Carvajal, a member of the APRA party, demanding that the U.S. government be investigated for violating the human rights of LaRouche. The letter was also signed by seven other Peruvian legislators, from both the APRA and United Left parties.

Congressman Calderón told the OAS Commission that it "must act as an impartial body and investigate complaints of violations of human rights in all the countries of the Americas. It cannot serve solely as the instrument of one country against other nations on the continent." Calderón said that while he and the other signers did not necessarily agree with everything LaRouche stands for, they were "firmly convinced that LaRouche is the victim of political persecution."

In their letter, the congressmen also stated that "the purpose of this political persecution by the American government is to silence the only voice within the United States to speak out against the genocidal economic policies that the International Monetary Fund is imposing on our continent, and the openly malthusian policies that the current administration of George Bush is applying against all the countries of the Third World."

On Oct. 31 at a press conference, Venezuelan representative to the commission Marco Tulio Bruni Celli was asked by a journalist from the newspaper *Solidaridad Iberoamericana* why the OAS had not responded to the legislators' appeal for an investigation of the LaRouche case, "when you have even gone to the jail here to visit terrorist leader Osman Morote, a leader of Shining Path, responsible for thousands of deaths, and you also met with drug traffickers Carlos Langberg and 'The Godfather' Reynaldo Rodríguez Lopez?" The Venezuelan, visibly upset by the question, replied that while the LaRouche case "is very well known," the commission was dealing solely with issues "pertaining to Peru." Reminded that it was a group of Peruvian legislators who had submitted the letter to the commission, Bruni Celli tersely replied, "The OAS has made its decision," and shut down the conference shortly thereafter.

The next day, Nov. 1, a terrorist threat was staged against the offices of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSI), whose newspaper is *Solidaridad Iberoamericana*. At around 2 p.m., a suspicious package was placed at the entrance of the MSI offices in Lima. Shortly before the package was discovered, the MSI received about a dozen threatening phone calls. Although Peru's National Police bomb squad found no explosives, they determined that the package constituted a terrorist threat. "This is an attempted intimidation," said a police official. "They do this to gauge your reactions."