

Andean Report by Andrea Olivieri

The Envigado scandal

Those who are fighting the sellout to the cartels and narco-terrorists are asking, "Who really rules in Colombia?"

The widely read Colombian magazine *Semana* reported in mid-January that Medellín Cartel chieftain Pablo Escobar is using his Envigado prison-estate as a protected command center for his trafficking operations and assassination bureau. Citing unnamed government sources, *Semana* revealed that Escobar's top hit-man, Dandenys Muñoz Mosquera, had casually crossed several lines of prison guards—both military and civilian—to visit the cartel "godfather" in his prison last September. Muñoz Mosquera, who had just escaped from a Colombian jail cell, was accompanied by his brother, a fellow assassin and fugitive. Neither man was challenged, much less detained, and the brothers then proceeded to New York on a suspected assassination assignment. An anonymous tip led to Dandenys Muñoz Mosquera's capture there.

Semana's revelations follow on the heels of the new book *Mi Guerra en Medellín*, by retired Army Col. Augusto Bahamón, which reports that Escobar owns the land where his made-to-order prison is located, and chose his own prison guards from amongst his criminal cohorts (see *EIR*, Jan. 24).

Fabio Ochoa, the scion of the infamous Ochoa clan which runs the Medellín Cartel along with Escobar, has publicly protested the claim that the cartel prisons are luxurious or that criminals enter and leave them at will. Ochoa added that, in his view, the best Colombian government in the past ten years has been the current one under César Gaviria.

"Who Rules in Colombia?" was the striking headline of an article appearing in the Jan. 19 issue of the Bogotá daily *El Espectador*, written by former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo González, which challenged the unprecedented vacuum of legitimate power that currently exists in Colombia. "Regarding the violence, we are worse off now than before the surrender of the members of the so-called Medellín Cartel. The massacres continue, the assassinations are constant, insecurity is rampant, the impunity more alarming than ever. . . . The peace policy has been a failure."

Parejo had written an open letter to Attorney General Gustavo Arrieta Padilla three days earlier, citing the *Semana* and Bahamón revelations and demanding an official investigation. That investigation is now being reluctantly pursued by Justice Minister Fernando Carrillo and Defense Minister Rafael Pardo.

Carrillo, a former delegate to the 1990 National Constituent Assembly which banned the extradition to the U.S. of drug traffickers, shut down the National Congress and rewrote Colombia's Constitution, made headlines recently with his insistence that Escobar was becoming "more like any other prisoner in the penal system" every day. As Justice Minister, Carrillo has refused to investigate charges that President César Gaviria Trujillo personally covered up the existence of a videotape purportedly containing evidence that nearly one-half of the delegates to that Constituent Assembly had been bribed by the drug cartel. Trujillo is currently employed in per-

petuating the myth that Escobar and the other cartel chieftains who "surrendered" will receive the full weight of the law in their upcoming trials,

While it conducts its so-called "investigation" of the Envigado scandal, the Gaviria government has already moved full-steam ahead to conclude its sporadic peace negotiations with the narco-terrorist FARC. The government's newly named "peace adviser" is Horacio Serpa Uribe, one of three former co-presidents of the infamous National Constituent Assembly, and the treasurer for the failed 1990 presidential campaign of Ernesto Samper Pizano. Samper's main claims to fame are his close association with ex-President Alfonso López Michelsen, the political godfather of the drug trade in Colombia; and his persistent advocacy of drug legalization, going back to 1979.

Serpa told the nation Jan. 20 that "the peace dialogue will have to yield results" sooner or later, because of "the great effort we are making." Indeed, the government has been bending over backwards to accommodate the FARC; re-initiating contact again and again with the narco-terrorists despite their escalating involvement in drug trafficking, kidnaping, murder, and terrorism.

Indeed, the narc-FARC, as they are commonly known in Colombia, have reportedly taken advantage of the government-enforced lull in anti-subversive operations during 1991 to build 21 new fronts inside the country. According to the Jan. 27 *El Espectador*, intelligence reports indicate that the FARC has financed these new fronts through 70% control of the newly developed opium-heroin trade in at least eight Colombian provinces. The result, says *El Espectador*, is that the FARC "has today become one of the leading drug cartels in the country."