

symbol (flag, coat of arms, tricolor armband, etc.),” as a sign of support for the PLV’s six-point program for national change. The first point of the program: that the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court immediately resign, and a new Constitution to replace party rule be drawn up.

“Humanity has entered a revolutionary period in its history. Barely two years ago the entire population of Eastern Europe took to the streets in search of liberty and sovereignty: Moscow’s puppets fell. Less than a year ago, people took to the streets en masse in the former Soviet Union in rejection of the dictatorship: The communist clique fell. Now it is Latin America’s turn,” the PLV wrote.

Detailing the looting of all Ibero-America which has occurred under the IMF, and citing the fact that while the Venezuelan state received more than \$200 billion in oil income in the last 15 years, the majority of Venezuelans still live in misery, the PLV called for the urgent formation of a “nationalist movement” to implement an emergency economic program. Venezuela must declare a debt moratorium for at least five years, impose strict exchange controls, and take measures to secure jobs and the vital necessities of the population, all as part of a program of Ibero-American integration, based on “great agricultural and industrial projects, transport, and infrastructure works,” the PLV explained.

The PLV ad concluded that instead of party rule, a participatory democracy based on a “harmony of interests” and the precepts of the papal encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*, is needed.

New actions coming

The PLV is not a lone voice. On Feb. 20, former President Rafael Caldera told the press that “if the people want,” he would support the dissolution of the current Congress, and the calling of a Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution. Prominent intellectual Arturo Uslar Pietri, head of a political grouping dubbed “the Notables,” led a delegation of congressmen, ex-ministers, and members of several influential Venezuelan families which presented the Supreme Court on Feb. 24 with petitions containing 5,000 signatures demanding that the entire Supreme Court resign.

Maj. General Yacobo Yépez Daza, president of the association of retired military officers, told Reuters news agency Feb. 26 that there could be another coup attempt, if the Supreme Court does not resign, or if Pérez associate David Morales Bello is named head of the Congress. Morales Bello, the ruling Democratic Action party nominee for the post, called for the military rebels to be executed after the coup attempt. The post has taken on unusual importance now, because the president of the Senate is next in line for the presidency, if the President resigns.

“Those [who] were discontented will continue to be, because nothing has been changed,” Yépez Daza stated. “If there is radical rectification, we will not see another coup.” Otherwise, there are no guarantees.

Cuban communists bring ‘democracy’ to

by Gretchen Small

When Joaquín Villalobos, the leader of El Salvador’s Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN), announced in January that he welcomed the United States as the “guarantor” of the “peace” agreement between the Salvadoran government and his guerrillas, he signaled the formal opening of a new phase of strategic collaboration between Washington and communist narco-terrorist forces in Ibero-America. That collaboration extends far beyond the precedent-setting Washington-FMLN agreement, under which FMLN rule over El Salvador will be imposed through foreign occupation.

Across the continent, the FMLN’s closest ally, the Cuban Communist Party, is on an organizing drive to pull the diverse Marxist, socialist, leftist, and environmentalist movements and parties, back into centralized control, deployed behind a program accommodated to the post-Soviet Union world. Fidel Castro’s regime adamantly rejects any democratic changes for Cuba, but in the rest of the Americas, it is deploying forces into an alliance with Washington, under the twin banners of support for “democracy,” and acceptance of continued dominance of the region by the Anglo-American financial system.

Nationalism declared the enemy

Nationalism, not the “democratic system” nor the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is the enemy to be defeated, according to the partners in this alliance.

This is certainly not the first time Marxists and international usurers have put aside their differences to join forces against a nationalism which they both abhor. Yet there are still many who fail to understand that, and claim stubbornly that Washington’s policies today are based on the same brand of anti-communism it employed in the 1950s.

Recent developments in El Salvador, Colombia, and Haiti provide adequate proof that Washington, too, now hangs its policy upon this alliance. No longer able to rely solely on the “free market” democrats to contain the political ferment exploding in the region, Washington has turned to these retooled communists-turned-democrats to ensure that Ibero-America does not break free from the crumbling new world order. The Bush administration, for example, insists that “democracy” requires co-rule in Haiti between Communist

help George Bush Ibero-America

Party Secretary General René Theodore and Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Maoist radical Lavalas Movement.

As FMLN honcho Shafik Handal told Peru's *Sí* magazine after the "peace" accords were signed in January:

"The U.S. government now has a different point of view, and believes that their policy towards Latin America is on a different track. . . . Of course, the U.S. government, like we, has their own purposes and expectations. The coming years will tell who achieves them, and who doesn't. But I don't think that our purposes and expectations, in this particular period, are totally opposed to the purposes and expectations of the U.S. government. They may have a strategy which does not coincide fully with ours, but there are points of agreement. And it's worth the effort to make them move forward. . . ."

São Paulo Forum: left wing of the new world order

The revamped communist movement working with Washington is being pulled together around a group called the "Meeting of the Movements and Political Parties of the São Paulo Forum." Established in 1990 as a means to keep the communist movement in Ibero-America alive, after the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe shattered existing international links, the São Paulo Forum first functioned as a loose network joining together the non-Socialist International left in the continent. Here we find the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) of Mexico's Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, the Lavalas Movement of Haiti's Aristide, the FMLN, the Sandinista Liberation Front, Colombia's narco-terrorist M-19 movement, Uruguay's Communist Party-run Frente Amplio, the Workers' Party (PT) of Luiz Ignacio da Silva ("Lula") of Brazil, Peru's United Left (IU) party, Chile's new Socialist Party, and the Free Bolivia Movement, among others.

The primary muscle behind the Forum, from the outset, has been the Cuban Communist Party.

Now Castro's party and its allies in the Forum have decided that the time has come to transform the loose network into a centralized strike force. Agreement on a program for action is to be hammered out at a Feb. 26-29 seminar on "Integration

and Alternative Development in Latin America," to be held in Lima, Peru. The "big names" invited to speak are the FMLN's Rubén Zamora, Nicaraguan Sandinista chief Daniel Ortega, the Brazilian PT's "Lula," and former Mexican Sen. Ifigenia Martínez, who is a spokesman for Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. The agenda for the event includes four subjects: "Changes in the World Economy"; "Integration and the New World Order"; "Sovereignty and the Democratization of Economic Policy"; and the "Experiences of Government and 'Popular Power.'" "

Speaking to the Feb. 10-21 Winter Colloquium in Mexico City on "The Great Changes of Our Time," Adolfo Gilly, one of Cárdenas's advisers, made abundantly clear that the São Paulo Forum is mobilized around a war against the roots of Ibero-American nationalism, a program that coincides point for point with Washington's economic and political strategy.

Gilly, a Trotskyite and member of the editorial board of *Nexos* magazine, which co-sponsored the colloquium, delivered a diatribe against those who wasted the decade of the 1980s campaigning for "illusory political slogans such as the non-payment of the foreign debt." Neo-liberalism's free-market economics and the global economy are here to stay, and must not be fought, he declared. "The international economic system . . . and its agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have built-in guarantees which are unavoidable, such that no government in its right mind can at its own risk resort to those kinds of measures, without paying an intolerable price.

"The new social movements of Latin America are obligated to start from the fact of these larger realities, many of which are irreversible," he insisted. Illusions to the contrary come from those who still cling to "the nationalist theory of dependence," but such old nationalist myths must be discarded. "The restructuring of Latin American capitalism . . . has finished off . . . for good the outmoded national-populist pacts. . . . Any proposal to revive those pacts would only be a deviation." For that reason, Gilly said, "new democratic and leftist political formations, in a total or partial break with the past," have been formed by those who recognize that the only feasible basis for politics in the global economy is "the defense of political democracy and electoral pluralism"—a formulation lifted straight out of U.S. State Department briefing papers.

And which are these "new political formations" which champion democracy and the international financial system? Precisely the parties involved in Cuba's São Paulo Forum: Cárdenas's PRD, the FMLN, the M-19, the Sandinistas, the Frente Amplio, etc. "Their emergence is one of the new developments which define the new horizons of democracy and of politics in our countries," Gilly intoned.

Gilly left no doubt as to the kind of perverse "New Age" democracy for which Washington's communist allies are deployed. He called for the unification of the new political

parties with “the new social movements” which seek such “global rights” as “diversity of sexual options,” abortion, feminism, ecology, ethnic interests. Democracy must be based on a combination of “the profound changes” in sexuality and the liberties won in the 1968 countercultural upsurges throughout the continent.

New friends: the Marxists and the IMF

On Jan. 31, the Argentine newspaper *El Cronista* published an interview with the commander of Colombia’s M-19 narco-terrorists, Antonio Navarro Wolf, under the title “The Ex-Guerrilla Praised the IMF.” Navarro Wolf, who has long argued that the FMLN’s strategies should serve as the model for the left in the rest of the continent, announced that the ex-guerrillas of the continent must now champion a democracy of “multi-partyism.”

Like Gilly, the M-19 chief argues that this means accepting IMF rule. IMF politics “have been a scourge, they are bleeding us with the payment of the debt,” he admitted, “but in the middle of all that, we have to admit that they have imposed discipline in the management of monetary affairs, and that helps integration.” Similarly, the dollarization of Ibero-America’s economies brought about by the IMF is useful, he said, because “now there is a handling of monetary matters imposed by the international banks, which has made the issue of money more homogeneous in the region.” Of course, “that contributes to the internationalization of the economy, which logically benefits the great blocs of economic power”; but, he insists, that is a good thing, because “that reality has made us do what we weren’t able to do voluntarily—integrate. . . . I would say that that is the positive aspect of neo-liberalism which forced Latin American businessmen to be more responsible.”

The M-19, which prides itself as the group which applied Gnosticism to the development of Marxism, also champions permissive immorality as a criterion for “democracy.” In the *El Cronista* interview, Navarro Wolf limited himself to insisting that the drug trade cannot be exterminated from Colombia —“it’s only possible to aspire to control it”—although he is a fervent advocate of drug legalization. Likewise, his M-19 *compañeros* who now run the Colombian Health Ministry, have changed it from a ministry that ensures health care, into an instrument to spread sexual libertinism and attack the Catholic Church: The ministry itself recently produced pornographic television ads promoting condom use.

Taking aim at the Church

The decision of the continent’s communists to lay aside their weapons—for a time—did not stem from any change in strategy on their part, but rather represents a change in battlefield.

In a December 1985 interview with the Mexican leftist magazine *Cuadernos Políticos*, Navarro Wolf defended the

M-19’s bloody takeover of the Colombian Justice Palace the month before—paid for by the drug cartels—on the basis that the M-19’s goal was to destroy “one of the last, if not the last, respectable institution which the country has. . . . We evaluated what the Supreme Court meant, in a country which no longer believes in anything, and which only has two institutions left: the Catholic Church and the Supreme Court.”

With the judiciary in Colombia utterly discredited by the combined assault of the drug mob and the M-19, the M-19 is today concentrating its fire on the remaining institution which Navarro Wolf had targeted in his interview nearly seven years ago: the Catholic Church. The only difference is that warfare is now carried out from a more comfortable position, from *within* the Colombian government, a fortified position achieved with the active backing of the U.S. embassy.

It is on the institutional level that the “points of contact” between the communists and Washington are found. Since the mid-1980s, official State Department documents have identified the “cross and the sword” as the key to the continuing domination of what they consider an “authoritarian,” as opposed to a “democratic,” culture in the region.

While the M-19 focuses on the “cross,” El Salvador’s FMLN has achieved the biggest success so far in destroying “the sword” in their country. As Shafik Handal stressed to *Sí*, in an interview in its Jan. 20 issue, the “central aspect” of the so-called peace accord “is that the armed forces, the army, which has been the hegemonic force in the country for more than 60 years . . . must answer to the democratically elected civilian authorities.” The new relationship between the FMLN and Washington is based precisely on the fact that the United States has promoted “civilian society to a level of leadership,” Handal said.

Indeed, collaboration between the United States and the Forum is advancing rapidly. Two FMLN leaders have been invited to the United States, to discuss reconstruction plans with American businessmen, Congress, and the administration.

After Sandinista Gen. Humberto Ortega awarded the U.S. military attaché the country’s highest medal, the U.S. military reciprocated by sending its first official mission to the country, while Sandinista Comandante Henry Ruiz was invited by the U.S. State Department to speak at various U.S. universities—the first time in nearly a decade such an invitation was extended to a Sandinista leader.

Looming in the near future as the next likely site of collaboration, in the wake of their success in El Salvador, is Haiti, where the Bush administration appears willing to use military force to reinstate the Maoist lunatics of Aristide’s Lavalas Movement in office. Any such military invasion, as Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas has promised, will this time be hailed by the communists in the São Paulo Forum as a victory for “democracy.”