

Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

Shining Path is on the march

As the guerrilla group's networks expand in Mexico, the question is: Who is protecting them inside the government?

Recent events in Mexico City have shed light on a well-organized machine connected to the criminal narco-terrorist movement Shining Path, which acts not only as a propaganda and logistical support network for the Peruvian insurgency, but which is preparing to begin irregular warfare actions inside Mexico.

The nucleus of this Shining Path machine in Mexico published a leaflet on Aug. 27 supporting the Peruvian Shining Path, and condemning the military takeover by the Peruvian Army of the Canto Grande prison on May 9 of this year. That prison had been converted into a Shining Path headquarters in which the prisoners did whatever they wanted, and issued orders to their comrades outside.

Among the signers of the leaflet was the Independent Proletarian Movement (MPI), which controls the drivers' union of Route 100, the gigantic urban bus line owned by the Department of the Federal District in Mexico City. Thanks to its control of the bus line, the MPI, directed by Gabino Camacho Barrera and Ricardo Barco López, also controls some of Mexico City's poorer suburbs.

The MPI also controls Section 9 of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE), whose director, Lilia Guzmán, signed the Shining Path leaflet, together with Section 36 of the SNTE in Mexico state. In February of this year, Shining Path held conferences to spout propaganda on its "People's War" in the auditorium of SNTE's Section 9.

Also signing were the Free Center for Theatrical and Artistic Experimen-

tation (CLETA), a counterculture group that comes out of the ranks of the old Communist Party (today integrated into the PRD party of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas) and dedicated to recruiting radical students; the National Association of Democratic Lawyers; the National Front of Democratic Lawyers; communist artists such as José de Molina; professors from UNAM university, the Autonomous University of Puebla, the National Polytechnic Institute, and the Pedagogical University; students; the School of Popular Culture; martyrs from 1968; and ex-guerrillas such as Fausto Trejo, a psychologist and columnist for *El Día* newspaper. Another signatory was, of course, the Committee of Support for People's War in Peru, the leading Shining Path front group in Mexico.

Resumen Ejecutivo, EIR's Spanish-language publication, has denounced the presence of Peruvian Shining Path supporters in Mexico City and other parts of the country, assigned to proselytizing and propaganda, and warned the Mexican government that the existence of this terrorist network could mark the beginning of a terrorist escalation in the country.

On May 9, Shining Path gave its first signal that it was ready to begin actions, leaving a hanged dog on the doorstep of the Peruvian embassy in Mexico City, an action that was discreetly published in the national press. A hanged dog is a signal Shining Path uses when it is going to assassinate someone.

The Mexican authorities have re-

fused to address the question of who issues visas to these Shining Path supporters and why they have not been expelled from the country, in a minimal act of solidarity with the Army, the government, and the people of Peru, the principal victims of Shining Path's crimes.

This terrorist network has now gone into action in earnest. On Aug. 18, the MPI served an agent provocateur role in triggering government violence against a peaceful gathering of various worker, peasant, and student organizations in the Zócalo, the main square in Mexico City. The MPI's action consisted of organizing four simultaneous demonstrations in different parts of Mexico City, to distract the anti-riot police. Columnist Carlos Ramírez of *El Financiero* observed that the four demonstrations were coordinated with professionalism, by means of radio systems, and with new irregular warfare tactics, such as the use of Route 100 buses to penetrate the circle of soldiers and to break through to the presidential residence at Los Pinos, where they were only stopped by soldiers ready and willing to fire.

The MPI did not succeed in its objective of controlling those in the Zócalo, but the result of their actions left 33 soldiers and 27 members of the MPI wounded. In the confrontation, police vehicles were burned.

A group of pensioners from the Route 100 union has charged that the MPI finances itself through the diversion of 25 billion pesos in union dues. In response to that accusation, the MPI's legal adviser Barco López admitted that among the MPI's properties are two country houses, one in Izúcar de Matamoros, Puebla, and the other in Tecpán de Galeana. It is noteworthy that both places are in the mountains, the latter in an area dominated by drug traffickers and ex-guerrillas.